FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-122
Friday
24 June 1994

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-122 *24 June 1994*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Sources' Release 'Text' of Israeli Golan Proposals *[AL-BAYAN 20 Jun]* 1
Peres Proposes Full Golan Withdrawal for Peace *[HA'ARETZ 22 Jun]* 1
Al-Asad Said To Accept Phased Withdrawal, Normalization *[HA'ARETZ 22 Jun]* 2
Musa, Israeli Envoy Discuss Peace Talks Resumption *[MENA]* 2

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 17 Jun 3
New Islamist Group Active on Afghan-Pakistan Border *[AL-WAFD 15 Jun]* 4

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Meets With Yemeni Parliamentarians in Tunis *[Algiers VOP]* 4
Further on Delegation's Visit *[AFP]* 4
'Arafat Sets Up Municipal Committees in West Bank *[Algiers VOP]* 4
'Arafat Names al-Qidwah Supreme Court President *[AL-NAHAR 23 Jun]* 5
'Arafat Issues Order for Prisoner Affairs Committee *[AL-QUDS 23 Jun]* 5
'Arafat on Prisoners, Settlements, Independence *[AL-QUDS 23 Jun]* 5
Al-Husayni Defends Postponement of 'Arafat Arrival *[Jerusalem Radio]* 6
Sha'th Discusses 'Domestic,' Economic Issues *[Jerusalem International]* 6
Mahmud 'Abbas Views Autonomy in Gaza, Jericho *[Berlin DIE TAGESZEITUNG 22 Jun]* 8
PLO Envoy Reportedly To Ask for U.S. Financial Aid *[Algiers Radio]* 9
Suspects in Hamas Member's Murder Under Investigation *[MENA]* 9
Police Turn 4 Murder Suspects Over to Israel *[Jerusalem Radio]* 9

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Foreign Minister's Washington Visit Reviewed *[Algiers Radio]* 10
Dembri: U.S. Supports Reforms *[Algiers Radio]* 10
Violent Incidents Continue Throughout Country 10
Family Murdered in Ain Defla Province *[Algiers Radio]* 10
War Veteran Killed in Constantine *[Algiers Radio]* 10
Attacks Disrupt Tamanrasset Supplies *[Algiers Radio]* 10
FIS: 200 Killed in Jun *[Paris International]* 11
FIS: 37 Bodies Found in Mass Grave *[Paris International]* 11

Egypt

National Dialogue Congress To Hold Session *[Cairo Radio]* 11
Twenty-two Repentant 'Terrorists' Released *[MENA]* 11
Minister Pledges To Uproot 'Terrorism' *[MENA]* 11
Writer Discusses Alleged U.S. Role in Yemen *[AL-SHA'B 17 Jun]* 11
Editorials Warn of Yemen's Effect on Arab Unity *[MENA]* 13
DPRK Envoy Briefs Musa on Korean Crisis *[Cairo Radio]* 14
Slovak Foreign Minister Concludes Visit *[MENA]* 14

Morocco

King Hassan Receives Saudi Foreign Minister *[Rabat Radio]* 14
Iran's Embassy Denies Involvement in Arms Cache *[MAP]* 14

Sudan

Ummah Threatens 'Armed Action' If al-Mahdi Harmed *[London AL-HAYAH 23 Jun]* 14

Tunisia

President Ben Ali Receives PRC Official *[Tunis Radio]* 15

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Top GCC Official Deplores Fighting in Yemen *[SPA]* 16

Kuwait

Minister on Ties With Egypt, Human Rights *[MENA]* 16

Qatar

Yemeni Deputy Premier Meets Foreign Minister *[WAKH]* 16

Saudi Arabia

Citizens Said Arrested for Position on Yemen *[AL-THAWRAH 16 Jun]* 17
Senegalese Foreign Minister Arrives *[SPA]* 17

Yemen

Salih Assails al-Bid, Urges Use of Amnesty *[Sanaa Radio]* 17
Council Member 'Abd-al-Ghani Returns to Sanaa *[Sanaa Radio]* 19
Acting Premier Inspects Food Storehouses *[Sanaa Radio]* 19
Al-Asnaj Predicts 'Exhaustion' of Sanaa War Machine *[London AL-HAYAH 23 Jun]* 19
Southern Officials Call For Sanctions on Sanaa *[Kuwait Radio]* 20
Aden Spokesman Appeals for International Help *[AFP]* 20
Northern Troops 'Marking Time' Outside Aden *[AFP]* 21

IRAQ

Saddam Chairs Cabinet Meeting, Discusses Legislation *[Baghdad Radio]* 22
Columnist Denies Arrest of Iraqi Pilots in Yemen *[AL-THAWRAH 8 Jun]* 22
APFC Official Meets Yemeni Delegation *[INA]* 23
Barzani Attends Joint PUK-KDP Information Meeting *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 23
KDP Denies 'Secret' Talks With Government *[London AL-HAYAH 23 Jun]* 23
Pro-Government Iraqi Kurdish Party Ends Meeting *[Baghdad Radio]* 23
Mosque Imams Call For Upholding Islamic Faith *[AL-QADISIYAH 18 Jun]* 24
Columnist Welcomes Saddam's 'Faith Campaign' *[AL-QADISIYAH 16 Jun]* 24
Ministry To Offer Copies of Koran *[AL-QADISIYAH 18 Jun]* 25
RCC Decrees New Law on Wife's Legal Separation *[AL-THAWRAH 13 Jun]* 25
International Church Symposium Meets in Baghdad 25
Speakers Condemn Embargo *[AL-QADISIYAH 12 Jun]* 25
Urges End of Injustice to Country *[AL-THAWRAH 15 Jun]* 26
Saddam Orders 300-Percent Pay Bonus for Brain Surgeons *[Baghdad Radio]* 26

ISRAEL

Rabin Comments on Peace Process, Labor 'Crisis' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 27
Interviewed on Regional, Domestic Issues *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 24 Jun]* 28
Rabin, Peres on Possibility of Progress With Syria *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Rabin Said To Meet Palestinian Officials 27 Jun *[Jerusalem TV]* 31
PLO Said To Demand IDF Withdrawal From W. Bank Cities *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 24 Jun]* 31
Al-Nashashibi Foresees Husayn-Rabin Meeting *[Jerusalem TV]* 32
Territories Coordinator on State of Autonomy's Economy *[HA'ARETZ 21 Jun]* 32
Baraq on Terrorism, Significance of Territories *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 33
Peres on Support for U.S. Actions in N. Korea *[HATZOFE 23 Jun]* 34
Clinton's 'Pathetic Maneuvers' Against Korea Seen *[HA'ARETZ 23 Jun]* 34
Peres Interviewed on Labor Party 'Crisis' *[HA'ARETZ 23 Jun]* 35
Labor Party Crisis, Peres-Rabin Conflict Viewed *[HA'ARETZ 19 Jun]* 36
Likud-Labor Forum Debates Security, Peace *[HA'ARETZ 19 Jun]* 37
UTJ's Porush Quits Knesset, Replaced by Verdiger *[Jerusalem New Channel 2 TV]* 38
Yi'UD Approves Opening of Coalition Negotiations *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38

JORDAN

King Comments on U.S. Ties, Syria, Peace *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 39
Concludes Visit, Leaves for UK *[Amman TV]* 41
Ministers View King's 'Successful' U.S. Visit 41
Al-Majali: Ties Moved to New Stage *[Amman TV]* 41
Al-'Anani: Visit Opens 'New Horizons' *[Amman Radio]* 42
Accomplishments of King's U.S. Visit Noted *[AL-DUSTUR 24 Jun]* 43
SAWT AL-SHA'B on Warming Relations *[24 Jun]* 43
Finance Minister on Financial Talks With U.S. *[Amman Radio]* 44
Paper: 'Too Early' for Results From Talks With Israel *[AL-RA'Y 24 Jun]* 44

LEBANON

Buwayz on Israeli Withdrawal, Jordanian Move *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 45
Defense Minister: Syrian Help Needed in South *[AFP]* 46
Weekly Reports Nasrallah-Fadlallah Differences *[AL-SHIRA' 20 Jun]* 46
Iranian Aid to Hizballah Reportedly Reduced *[AL-SHIRA' 20 Jun]* 46

SYRIA

Al-Asad Receives Yemeni Socialist Party Delegation *[Damascus Radio]* 47
Al-Asad Cables Iran's President, Denounces Bombing *[Damascus Radio]* 47
Mashariqah Receives Sudanese Energy Minister *[Damascus Radio]* 47
Workers Cable Support to al-Asad on Peace Process *[AL-THAWRAH 8 Jun]* 47

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Uzbek Militias' Aircraft Attack Tajiks *[London AL-HAYAH 20 Jun]* 48

India

Kidnapped UK Nationals Released in Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 48
Authorities To Launch Kashmir 'Action Plan' *[Delhi Radio]* 48
Leaders Comment on Split in Janata Dal *[Delhi Radio]* 48
Rao Rules Out Ban on Satellite TV Channels *[Delhi Radio]* 49
Confusion Over New Telecom Policy Viewed *[INDIAN EXPRESS 20 Jun]* 49

Iran

Reaction to Mashhad Bombing Continues 50
Velayati Addresses Envoys *[Tehran TV]* 50
Majles Official Decries 'Tragedy' *[Tehran Radio]* 51
Mashhad Radio Comments *[Mashhad International]* 51
Velayati Urges Action Against MKO *[IRNA]* 52
Rebel Radio Implicates Regime *[Voice of Iranian Kordestan]* 52
Delegation Postpones Baghdad Trip *[IRNA]* 53
Commentary on Velayati Letter to UN *[Tehran International]* 53
Velayati on Ties With Egypt, Terrorism, Israel *[AL-AHRAM 15 Jun]* 54
Velayati Returns From Europe, Discusses Trip *[Tehran Radio]* 55
Commentary Views Israel's 'Peace-Seeking Mask' *[Tehran International]* 55
Kurdish Party Head Says West Supports Regime *[Berlin DIE TAGESZEITUNG]* 56

Sri Lanka

President Appoints Two New Ministers *[Colombo International]* 58
Sacked Minister Reinstated *[AFP]* 58
Government Spokesman on Conditions for Talks *[Colombo International]* 58

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Sources' Release 'Text' of Israeli Golan Proposals

JN2406114794 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic
20 Jun 94 pp 1, 15

[Report by Khalil Khurmah]

[Text] Amman—AL-BAYAN has obtained the text of the new Israeli proposals Washington relayed to Damascus in the last few days. Syria considers these proposals an amended copy of the Gaza-Jericho agreement and rejecteded them, although incompletely. Damascus, Washington, and Tel Aviv are holding diplomatic talks on these proposals, and the outcome of these talks will determine the date for Christopher's next tour to the region.

These proposals, which were revealed by Jordanian sources with close links to Damascus, stipulate:

1. The deployment of international observers and the setting up of electronic monitoring stations on the Golan Heights.

2. The Golan Heights and other parts of Syrian territory, extending from Dar'a in the south to Qattinah in the north, as deep as 35 km from the borders, should be demilitarized.

3. The Hizballah Party should be disarmed and Antoine Lahd's army should join the Lebanese Army in return for an Israeli recognition of Syria's sovereignty over the Golan Heights, provided that Lebanon agrees to the Jizzin-First idea.

The Israeli proposals included details on the issues of water and armament as follows:

A. Israel does not agree to the proposal that the shores of Lake Tiberias should be the borderline between Syria and Israel. Therefore, amendments to the borders must be made since Israel does not recognize Syria's sovereignty over the areas of al-Hammah and the Ka'wash Triangle, which were not part of Syria during the British-French mandate.

B. Syria must pledge not to seek to divert the Banyas River waters and to set up a joint committee to agree on the distribution of the river's waters.

C. Syria must pledge to cooperate with Israel on the utilization of the rain waters that feed the Jordan River, the al-Yarmuk River, and Lake Tiberias.

D. Lebanon must pledge not to infringe on the sources of the Jordan River originating in its territory.

E. A Syrian presence in Lebanon's al-Biqa' is rejected and the agreement on the Golan Heights and Lebanon must be linked to the issue of Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon.

The sources told AL-BAYAN that the new thing in the Israeli plan is that it talks for the first time about a joint solution on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

Peres Proposes Full Golan Withdrawal for Peace

TA2206150594 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
22 Jun 94 p A2

[Report by Aluf Ben]

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres believes that the chances for a breakthrough in the talks with Syria hinge on a change in the Israeli concept. Peres believes Israel will be required to implement a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights in the framework of an agreement with Syria. Since the price is obvious, instead of continuing to argue over the withdrawal Israel should focus its demands of Syria in a different direction, namely, building up a new network of relationships in the Middle East. "The Golan Heights is the last mountain we possess," Peres said, "and I ask myself what we can do with this mountain and what security value we can get out of it." Peres believes Israel's demands of Syria should focus on two objectives: Obtaining good security arrangements along our northern border, and achieving comprehensive peace with the neighboring countries.

Peres claims that peace with Syria will provide an opportunity for a historic reconciliation with the Arab world and for achieving a new regional order. Israel should demand that peace with Syria be followed by comprehensive peace between Israel, Jordan, and Lebanon and establishing relations with all the Arab and Muslim countries except for the "regional bullies," namely Iran, Iraq, and Libya.

Foreign Ministry officials believe the Israeli public will prefer a withdrawal from the Golan in exchange for such a comprehensive settlement, to a withdrawal in exchange for a bilateral arrangement similar to the peace between Israel and Egypt. The new regional order will contribute to the stability and security of all the countries participating in this order.

Peres proposes establishing in the Middle East a regional framework on the model of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe [CSCE].

The new framework, to be established gradually on the basis of the present bilateral and multilateral talks, will include three "baskets": Security, economics, and human rights, and will incorporate all the working groups meeting in the multilateral talks.

In Europe, the CSCE established a comprehensive mechanism for confidence building in the security and political spheres, including periodical meetings of leaders, a crisis prevention center, forewarning of military activity, inviting foreign observers to military maneuvers, and antiterror and disarmament cooperation.

Peres presented his CSCE proposal to U.S. Administration heads during his visit to Washington last month. Peres took with him Harry Qney-Tal, head of the Foreign Ministry Political Planning Division, who prepared the working papers on this issue.

Qney-Tal presented the new concept to Dennis Ross, head of the U.S. peace team. The Americans, headed by President Clinton, reacted favorably to the idea and promised to promote it.

Peres suggested that the new regional framework be inaugurated in the business conference slated to be held in Morocco during November. This proposal was also raised in his meeting with Morocco's King Hassan.

Over the last few months Peres has exerted great efforts in trying to forge communication links with al-Asad. Last January he sent al-Asad via a mediator in London a condolence letter on the death of his son Basil.

In February Peres said the level of negotiations with Syria must be upgraded to the level of foreign ministers. In almost every meeting with foreign diplomats, even those coming from small countries, Peres asksed his interlocutors to exert their influence on Damascus and to "bring the Syrians." During his visit to the Ukraine last week he received a promise in this spirit from President Leonid Kravchuk.

Peres' critics maintain that his ideas will not facilitate the negotiations. They claim that Syria will come to the negotiations only via Washington, because it is interested in an arrangement with the United States just as much as with Israel.

Critics contend that the proposal to set up a new regional framework similar to the CSCE is good, but that this is not the solution.

Al-Asad Said To Accept Phased Withdrawal, Normalization

TA2206152194 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Jun 94 p A2

[Report by political correspondents Aluf Ben and Yerah Tal]

[Excerpts] Senior political sources in Jerusalem yesterday said that the achievement of significant progress in the negotiations between Syria and Israel now depended on one factor: vigorous efforts by the U.S. intermediaries. The U.S. peace team is in the midst of formulating a proposal for a peace arrangement between Syria and Israel. The members of the team, however, feel that the time is still not ripe to present the parties with a U.S. compromise proposal. The gaps between the Syrian and Israeli positions are too wide at this stage and bridging attempts may blow up the negotiations.

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has accepted the principle of a phased peace accord with Israel. Each stage will comprise an Israeli withdrawal from a part of the Golan Heights in exchange for steps toward normalization on the part of Syria. This was reported yesterday by senior political sources in Jerusalem. The sources asserted, however, that Israel was still waiting for detailed replies from Damascus regarding the components of the proposed accord: security arrangements; a timetable; and the form normalization steps would take. Al-Asad for his part, has refused to spell out his positions in detail before he is assured that Israel is committed to the implementation of a full withdrawal on the Golan Heights as the ultimate goal of the accord.

According to the political sources, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin does not want to commit himself to a full withdrawal before knowing the Syrian positions. A government commitment to a full withdrawal involves paying a domestic political price and there is no guarantee that al-Asad will not present tough negotiating positions afterwards. [passage omitted]

In Washington there have been almost daily meetings between Dennis Ross, the head of the U.S. peace team, and the Syrian and Israeli ambassadors, Walid al-Mu'allim and Itamar Rabinovich. The talks were held in an indirect fashion with Ross meeting separately with each ambassador. Rabinovich and al-Mu'allim have nevertheless held secret meetings in the past, with the participation of U.S. officials, and may still maintain direct contact.

The past few weeks of talks were designed to prepare for Secretary of State Christopher's upcoming visits to Damascus and Jerusalem. Israeli sources claim that the progress made in these meetings had been unsatisfactory because Syria had not come up with acceptable replies to the questions presented to it. The shuttle mission, which was slated to begin today, was put off until next month.

The Syrians were surprised by the progress reached on the Jordanian-Israeli track and responded by freezing developments in the Rabinovich-Ross-al-Mu'allim talks. According to reports reaching Jerusalem, the Syrians expected the talks between Jordan and Israel to deal solely with economic issues and not with progress toward a peace arrangement. Jordan's agreement to move the talks to this area in the wake of the Palestinians has left Syria and its satellite, Lebanon, the only two countries remaining in the original framework of the Washington talks. These talks have not convened since the Hebron massacre on 25 February. [passage omitted]

Musa, Israeli Envoy Discuss Peace Talks Resumption

NC2306125794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today received Israeli Ambassador in Cairo David Sultan.

Ambassador Sultan said afterward that they held a comprehensive review of the peace process and bilateral relations.

On the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, he said they will resume next week in the self-rule areas and Israel and will discuss a single issue—the early transfer of authority. He added that there is a proposal to hold negotiations on the other issues in Cairo, which has expressed its willingness to host the negotiations.

Sultan said Israel welcomes a visit by Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, to Israel on Monday, adding that Israel is always ready to talk to him but that this visit would be devoted to one purpose—delivering a lecture at Tel Aviv University.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 17 Jun

NC2306125094

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 17 June issue of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Writer on Mistreatment of Detainees

2. Jailed Journalist Honored

3. U.S. Policy on Islamic Movements Viewed

4. Muslim Brotherhood Writer Interviewed

WRITER ON MISTREATMENT OF DETAINEES

A 2000-word commentary by 'Adil Husayn entitled "What Kind of Dialogue Is This if Opposition Members Can Be Hauled Off to Abu-Za'bal Prison at Will?" appears on page 7. Questioning the government's seriousness in seeking political dialogue, Husayn bolsters his arguments by recounting instances of abuse of political detainees.

Husayn writes: "I do not believe the government is serious about national dialogue. If it was serious, why did it have to delay it for seven months?" He adds: "Circumstances forced the government to propose dialogue with other political parties, but 'backsliding' has marked its position on that issue for the past few months."

Following a few opening paragraphs, Husayn dedicates the remainder of the commentary to a detailed description of the suffering of the "political detainees" held in Abu-Za'bal Industrial Prison [sijn abu-za'bal al-sina'i]. The following account of abuse was reported to him by an eyewitness, 'Abd-al-Nasir Fahmi 'Abd-al-'Al, an engineer from al-Minya who "describes what he experienced and saw in this prison in which 2,500 Egyptian youths are held."

The suffering of the detainees, Husayn discloses, begins with the first moment of their incarceration: "The detainee's experience in this prison begins with the 'gauntlet,' or 'the welcoming beating.' Officers, NCO's, and detectives gather as the detainees are made to face the wall. They slap, punch, and cane the detainees, the latter having been made to strip completely. The detainee is beaten on every part of his body. Sometimes a stick is inserted in his anus. The process is accompanied by a good measure of name-calling. Every detainee is ordered to slap the one next to him or place his finger in his anus. They are also forced to dance and sing obscene songs."

Husayn then describes conditions of overcrowding and lack of hygiene in the prison. He concludes the article with a call on the interior minister and public attorney to respond to the above-mentioned allegations: "We demand a statement from the interior minister about this crime. We consider this article a request for investigation by the public attorney. We call on all democratic forces to object. Yes, we call for investigation, but, first of all, for an end to this crime."

JAILED JOURNALIST HONORED

A 1,000-word report by 'Abd-al-Rahman Isma'il on page seven describes a ceremony held at the Journalists Association on 16 June in which the Egyptian Human Rights Association gave its "Opinion and Expression Award" to 'Abd-al-Sattar Husayn, AL-SHA'B's military correspondent, who is serving a prison sentence in Masra'at Turah prison for publishing "military news." The award was given to show "solidarity with his cause. He has been subjected to the worst possible human rights violations as a price for speaking his mind."

U.S. POLICY ON ISLAMIC MOVEMENTS VIEWED

Muhammad Jamal 'Arafah explores U.S. policy toward Islamic movements in a 1,800-word commentary on page 8 entitled: "Interest Is the Sole Criterion: Has America Agreed To Cooperate With Islamic Movements in the World?"

'Arafah begins by stating his conclusion: "It seems that the U.S. Administration is about to formulate its attitude toward Islamic movements in the world in general and the Arab region in particular on the basis of one criterion, its interests and influence."

To substantiate this view, the writer cites articles from NEWSWEEK, THE WASHINGTON POST, FOREIGN AFFAIRS, and LOS ANGELES TIMES, all containing a conciliatory tone toward the Islamists or pointing to a softening of the U.S. stand toward Islamic movements.

'Arafah then articulates his view of a self-serving United States ready to accommodate Islamic movements to protect its global position: "It is clear that the new U.S. tendency to seek the involvement—not containment—of Islamists in the political process in some countries—

such as Algeria—aims to serve U.S. supreme interests. The tendency, sugarcoated with such slogans as 'human rights' and 'spreading democracy worldwide,' is symptomatic of a United States determined to hedge its bets against a possible rise of the Islamists to power."

The United States may still change its mind, however. The new phenomenon, 'Arafah tells us, "does not seem more than a change in temporary U.S. 'tactics' rather than a shift in 'strategy.'"

To assess the durability of the new U.S. attitude, 'Arafah has in mind to apply an litmus test: "The real test of the veracity of the new U.S. tendency is to see if it will ever filter through to countries other than Algeria. If the Americans extend their call for the participation of Islamists [in government] to their traditional allies—Egypt and Tunis, among others—then the new attitude is real, albeit self-serving."

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD LEADER INTERVIEWED

A 2,000-word interview with Muslim Brotherhood leader Hamid Abu-al-Nasir by Sha'ban 'Abd-al-Rahman, for which the place and date are not given, appears on page 9. Abu-al-Nasr reiterates objectives of his organization, saying that it is committed to democracy and shuns violence.

New Islamist Group Active on Afghan-Pakistan Border

NC2306184194 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 15 Jun 94 p 6

[From the "Political Week" section]

[Text] A new Islamist organization calling itself the "Caliphate Group" has recently appeared. The organization, which espouses the concept of repudiation and accuses all existing Islamic societies and countries of apostasy, is operating in tribal territories adjacent to the Pakistani-Afghan border. It advocates the restoration of the caliphate under the leadership of the group's chief. The membership of the new organization comprises Egyptian, Sudanese, Jordanian, and Algerian nationals. The leader of the group is an Arab millionaire of Palestinian extraction called Abu-'Uthman. He considers himself an extension of Shukri Mustafa, leader of the Repudation and Renunciation group.

Last week the Pakistani authorities asked the group's leading members to leave Pakistan.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Meets With Yemeni Parliamentarians in Tunis

LD2306181494 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] The brother president, Yasir 'Arafat, met in Tunis this morning with His Excellency Yemeni Deputy Parliament Speaker 'Abd-al-Wahab Mahmud and the delegation accompanying him. His Excellency 'Abd-al-Wahab briefed the brother president on the latest situation and the seriousness of the fast-moving and delicate developments which concern Yemen and its fraternal people.

President 'Arafat stressed the importance of continuing efforts to find a just solution which would safeguard the interest of the fraternal Yemeni people and their effective role as one of the pillars of our Arab nation in its endeavour toward a better future.

His Excellency 'Abd-al-Wahab Mahmud conveyed an important message from Yemen's Parliament Speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar to the brother president, Yasir 'Arafat. The meeting was attended by his excellency the Yemeni ambassador to Tunisia.

Further on Delegation's Visit

NC2406055594 Paris AFP in English 2358 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] Tunis, June 24 (AFP)—A north Yemeni parliamentary delegation, seeking support for north Yemen's campaign against southern secessionists, met here Thursday [23 June] with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, official sources said.

The Palestine Liberation Organization leader stressed the need to "continue efforts to reach a just solution that takes into account the interests of the Yemeni people," the Palestinian news agency WAFA reported.

The Yemeni delegation, which also met with Tunisian parliamentary leaders and members of legal opposition groups, accused Saudi Arabia of supplying arms to southern forces, according to diplomatic forces.

Civil war erupted in Yemen on May 5 in the midst of a political dispute between northern and southern leaders on the administration of the country. The south proclaimed itself a separate state on May 21.

Southern representatives are also touring north Africa. A spokesman for the breakaway Yemen Democratic Republic earlier Thursday appealed to the international community to "impose a ceasefire by force."

The Tunisian government has expressed concern at the deteriorating situation in Yemen but has not taken sides in the conflict.

'Arafat Sets Up Municipal Committees in West Bank

JN2406064094 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], state of Palestine president and PLO Executive Committee chairman, has issued instructions to set up committees to run municipal affairs in every city and village in the West Bank expected to come under the control of the Palestinian National Authority in the next few months, in accordance with the Oslo and Cairo agreements.

News reports cite a Palestinian source as saying that before his expected arrival in the occupied territories in July, Brother President Abu-'Ammar wants to resolve several matters which are considered remnants of the Israeli occupation, particularly the issue of municipalities, which are estimated at 100 big and middle- sized municipalities, as well as 250 village councils.

The source added that Brother President Abu-'Ammar, who believes these municipalities and councils will have a basic role to play in the development process, and even in the political process, has given instructions to a number of specialized committees, set up during meetings of the Palestinian leadership, to contact qualified people to establish such committees.

'Arafat Names al-Qidwah Supreme Court President

TA2306135994 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 23 Jun 94 p 1

[By Ahmad al-Mashahrawi]

[Text] Gaza—President Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestinian Authority, yesterday appointed Khalid al-Qidwah as president of the Palestinian Supreme Court.

It is worth noting that the appointment was made upon the recommendation of Furayh Abu-Middayn, justice minister in the Palestinian Authority.

'Arafat Issues Order for Prisoner Affairs Committee

TA2306143594 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 23 Jun 94 p 1

[By Da'ud Kuttab]

[Text] Jerusalem—Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat has issued an order calling for the formation of a special committee for prisoners affairs. The members of this committee will join the special security committee for prisoners.

The order issued in Tunis yesterday said that the committee will consist of Hisham 'Abd-al-Raziq, 'Isa Qaraqi', Jamal al-Shubaki, Ibrahim Shaykhah, and Ahmad Nasr.

The militant committee in Junayd prison had proposed this makeup during the meeting held between it and Marwan al-Barghuthi, Fatah secretary in the West Bank.

'Arafat on Prisoners, Settlements, Independence

TA2306174794 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 23 Jun 94 pp 1, 18

[Report by 'Abd-al-Jabbar al-Barghuthi]

[Text] Tunis—Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat has condemned the Israeli policy, based on procrastination and foot-dragging, concerning the prisoners and their right to breath the air of freedom and live among their families and near their children, who have been waiting for them impatiently. He called on Rabin's government to honor its obligations by completing the release of prisoners in Israeli jails, without discrimination or vacillation, and granting them the right to live with honor and dignity in any place they wish without being forced to go to this or that area inside the one homeland.

'Arafat affirmed his clear response to the Israeli notion which is trying to put controversial issues on hold under the pretext of "the final stage solution." He considered Jerusalem to be an urgent issue whose final status should be discussed as soon as possible, as stipulated by the Oslo accord despite its bias.

'Arafat said: Our position on the issue of settlements must be one of isolation. We should not create any opportunity for coexistence with the settlements or accept them. They contravene international resolutions and laws and were built, from the start, on a false basis.

'Arafat said: It was not appropriate to refer to the settlements in the economic agreement despite the fact that the Israeli authorities receive 100 percent of the taxes deducted from Palestinian workers in these settlements. We do not want the settlements to remain and do not encourage work in them under any inducement.

'Arafat assured the Palestinian people that the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, with holy Jerusalem as its capital, was inevitable regardless of the statements or the climate propagated by Israeli extremists.

'Arafat affirmed that the aspired for state, for which our people have always dreamed and struggled with their most precious possessions, will belong to all Palestinians wherever they may reside. In this state, they can develop their national and cultural identity and enjoy full and equal rights. Their religious and political beliefs and human dignity will be upheld within framework of a democratic parliamentary system based on freedom of opinion, freedom to establish parties, protection of the minority's rights by the majority, and the minority's respect for the majority's decisions.

'Arafat added that this system will also be based on social justice, equality, and no discrimination toward universal rights on the basis of race, religion, color, or between male and female. This, within framework of a constitution that ensures the sovereignty of law and an independent judiciary and on the basis of effective loyalty to the Palestinian spiritual and cultural heritage of tolerance and smooth coexistence among religions throughout centuries.

Al-Husayni Defends Postponement of 'Arafat Arrival

TA2406063794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Telephone interview with Faysal al-Husayni by Karmit Gay and Moti Amir; place not given—live]

[Text] [Gay] Mr. al-Husayni, Yasir 'Arafat is constantly raising new demands and conditions for his arrival. It looks as though he is in no hurry to arrive.

[Al-Husayni] Look, the issue here is not new conditions. If we are talking about real peace; if Mr. Rabin has decided to make peace with the person who issued the orders to wage a struggle against Israel; if Yasir 'Arafat, in turn, is making peace with Rabin, who also issued orders of such a nature, then I believe those who carried out these orders must not remain in prison. We, too, must close all the cases against Israelis rather than say that Israelis who killed Palestinians must be dealt with.

[Gay] That is a different issue. I want to ask you, however, why 'Arafat constantly postpones his arrival here? What does this have to do with other issues? After all, he can continue the negotiations from his office in Jericho.

[Al-Husayni] Look, there is no point in 'Arafat coming here and acting as though real peace is on its way, while at the same time prisoners remain incarcerated for no reason. I do not understand why there are still prisoners and why no female prisoner has been released so far. We can see that whenever the Palestinians carry out a new move, the Israelis evince an inflexible attitude regarding the prisoners issue. The Israelis must tell us clearly whether they do not want to release the prisoners or how long it will take. We want to understand this.

[Amir] Mr. al-Husayni, the negotiations over the release of prisoners will take several months. The issue of international observers will also take months to be resolved. This means that 'Arafat will in fact arrive only when the entire West Bank is under Palestinian self-rule.

[Al-Husayni] Not exactly. I must tell you, however, that Yasir 'Arafat cannot come under the present conditions. When Nabil Sha'th came to Jericho, he was forced to wait for several hours near al-'Awja' and several more hours near the bridge. If such issues are not resolved, 'Arafat will not be able to come. When he comes, he will come as a generally recognized national leader. I do not know how the Israelis intend to deal with Yasir 'Arafat when he arrives. If these issues are not resolved, I do not believe he can come.

[Amir] Is it true that Dr. Sha'th recommended that 'Arafat delay his arrival in Jericho because of what happened to Sha'th in Jericho or because his request to visit Jerusalem was refused?

[Al-Husayni] No, no. What I am saying is that every day we see something new which proves to us that the Israelis are not honoring the spirit of the agreement. Nabil Sha'th said he wanted to make a private visit to Jerusalem to meet friends. Once he said this, everything was done to prevent the visit, and he was also harassed in Jericho. If 'Arafat comes to Jericho and says something some Israelis do not like, then he will be punished by not being allowed to travel to Gaza until he writes letters and waits several days. We do not understand and cannot accept such a situation.

[Gay] This morning the prime minister is convening a meeting regarding the PLO's attempts to create political facts in Jerusalem. Apparently, the prime minister does not want to legislate laws regarding this issue but to deal with each attempt separately. What do you think about this?

[Al-Husayni] Look, every day there are new Israeli buildings in Jerusalem; every day more Israelis come to live in East Jerusalem. In the past, the Palestinians constituted 100 percent of the residents of East Jerusalem; now they constitute less than 50 percent. We are not allowed to build houses. Houses built because of the housing shortage in East Jerusalem are being demolished. Now the Israelis come and say that it is the Palestinians who are trying to create new facts in Jerusalem. All we are asking for is to live normally in Jerusalem.

[Gay] Do you not want to turn Orient House into the Palestinian government building?

[Al-Husayni] Who said that Orient House has become the Palestinian government? From its inception, Orient House has been totally dedicated to the issue of peace. We have still not completed the peace process. Once it is completed, we will see what to do with Orient House, but until then, it will continue to fulfill its mission. You know very well that the issue of Jerusalem has still not been ironed out. The negotiations on this issue are supposed to start within the next two years. So why should you seek to determine the Jerusalem issue now? You should wait until the negotiations start. Perhaps Israel is in fact implying that there are no negotiations and that the agreement was only meant to hold the Palestinians back while Israel does whatever it must to finalize everything and leave nothing for the negotiations.

Sha'th Discusses 'Domestic,' Economic Issues

JN2306202794

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic, in a special "With the Events" program, carries from 1438-1614 GMT a live or recorded phone-in program with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, "official in charge of the planning and international cooperation file in the Palestinian authority," who received phone calls in a "temporary studio" set up at the Palestine Hotel in Gaza. The phone-in program is interrupted by a news summary at 1530 GMT. Sha'th answers questions by the program moderators and callers on various domestic and personal

issues, especially concerning prisoners and deportees. The program is moderated by Roset Hakim in Jerusalem and Hasan Abu- Zayid Sa'id and Mu'addi in the studio in Gaza.

Answering a question by a caller from Hebron on rumors about Hebron being handed to the Palestinian authority early July, Nabil Sha'th says that according to the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles [DOP] signed in Washington, 13 July was the date set for the start of self-rule in the entire West Bank. He says that there has been some delay, but he expects that "if intentions are sincere and if the required effort is made, all cities of the West Bank will be included within the framework of the Palestinian authority and self-rule" three months from now.

Asked by Hasan Abu-Zayid on the date of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's arrival in the self-rule area, Nabil Sha'th says: "Abu-Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] always keeps his travel secret and surprising. Undoubtedly, he will declare the date of his arrival a few days earlier so that all preparations are made. However, we should not forget that President 'Arafat is the president of all Palestinians. Consequently, he has responsibilities outside Palestine toward the Palestinians living abroad. He will be also responsible for the situation of PLO institutions after his return to the homeland. He has to settle many matters before he returns to Gaza and Jericho. Also, some preparations must be made in Gaza and Jericho, such as, among other things, completing the implementation of the agreement and putting the security measures into practice. I have always said that I expect 'Arafat to arrive before the end of this month. This could be the case, but if any delay takes place, it will not be for much longer."

Asked by a caller from Gaza on employees' salaries and the economic situation, Sha'th says that "the Palestinian authority wants to continue to offer the required services to citizens, including education, health, sewerage system, illuminating streets, protecting beaches, and other similar matters. All this, including security, needs taxes to make them possible. Now we are fully responsible for security. This requires salaries for the police and others. We will receive international aid in the first year. This aid will enable us to offer services before we manage to collect the taxes needed for that. We will seriously discuss the possibility of increasing salaries. I asked brother Abu-Shar'iah, who is responsible for personnel affairs at the civil administration, to draw a plan for increasing the salaries of government employees so as to bring them close to the salaries paid to United National Relief and Works Agency and private sector employees."

Asked by Roset Hakim whether the Palestinian police will exert efforts to capture the killers of a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activist, who was killed in Bayt Lahiya on 22 June, Sha'th says: "Definitely. We will not allow any killer, assailant, or thief to escape punishment. This is not because we want to take revenge on anybody, but to give all citizens a feeling of justice and security irrespective of their political affiliation and geographic locations."

Asked by Hakim whether he is holding contacts with representatives of the Palestinian opposition to learn about their stand on the peace process and the possibility of their participation in future self-rule elections, Sha'th says: "I will be holding such contacts very soon. I started by resolving the problems facing the police and the civil authority through cooperation with my colleagues and brothers. I am visiting professional Palestinian communities—workers, merchants, and others. I know that some of my colleagues are in constant contact with the opposition. I will gladly hold contacts with them to achieve a genuine peace, national unity, democracy, and participation by all. In light of peace and the agreements that we have signed, we want to give everybody a chance to take part in building their homeland and future."

A telephone call was also received from Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, a Hamas leader in Gaza. In a brief dialogue, Sha'th and al-Zahhar exchange greetings and hope to meet soon. Al-Zahhar says: "First, we beseech God Almighty to grant you and your brothers here success. You are all welcome to your homeland. We beseech God that your presence here will be beneficial for the homeland and will spare us harm and evil, signs of which are evident through the agents' escalation of their activity against honorable persons of various affiliations. This has resulted in the martyrdom of youth Nasir Salluha. This is extremely regrettable. We hope that the police will not take its role fully to establish justice and to put an end to those agents."

Sha'th responds: "I wholeheartedly support you, brother Mahmud. We will not relinquish our responsibility. Defending you and all those affiliated to your organization and all the children of those people who struggled and paid sacrifices to achieve genuine security, effective participation, and justice is a responsibility which we are assuming without hesitation."

Asked to comment on some Palestinian prisoners' intention to receive 'Arafat upon his arrival in the self-rule area with black flags, Sha'th says that Palestinian prisoners have suffered a great deal from prisons and that peace has not secured their release although they had a role in the start of the peace process. He says that Palestinian officials are sparing no effort to secure their release. He says that the Cairo agreement has created the mechanism for the release of all prisoners, noting that special arrangements and negotiations are still needed.

Asked by Hasan Abu-Zayid on Jerusalem and recent statements by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, on a Palestinian-Israeli "secret file concerning Jerusalem," and whether a "new media clamor" about Jerusalem is imminent, Nabil Sha'th says: "I do not believe that what is required is a media clamor. What is required are clear bases for action regarding the issue of Jerusalem. I believe that brother Abu-al-Lutf

[Faruq Qaddumi] also refers to Holst's message, which constitutes a part of the overall Oslo accords. I remind the brother listeners that among the Oslo accords were the DOP which was signed in Washington, the letters exchanged between President 'Aaraft and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel, and this message by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to Holst, the late Norwegian foreign minister. What is required is for everyone of us to realize what these bases are. First, the final status of Jerusalem will be decided by the agreement that will result from the negotiations on the final status. These negotiations will begin within a period not exceeding two years after the signing of the DOP. The agreement will be implemented within a period not exceeding five years, which is the transitional period—three years after the first two years. However, the implementation of the DOP on the final status of Jerusalem is based on the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338. In other words, Jerusalem is considered an occupied city. It is not an annexed city, but a city like other cities in the West bank and Gaza occupied in 1967. Until we arrive at the final status, every side has its declared objectives. Our declared objective is that in the final status, we want East Jerusalem to be the capital of an independent Palestinian state. As for the relationship between east and west Jerusalem, this is a topic of negotiation. We do not want a new Berlin wall between east and west Jerusalem. This is something that will be decided in the negotiations. Until we arrive at this situation, our rights in east Jerusalem must be maintained. We must not be prevented from entering Jerusalem and the Palestinian civilian and religious institutions in the city must be defended. The Israeli Government must not take any measures preventing citizens' freedom and rights in Jerusalem. This is our position, and this is what has been achieved by Holst's message. What is required is abidance by this agreement rather to be engaged in media rows about it."

Asked by Abu-Zayid on the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations that will start on 27 June, Sha'th says that the first topic on the agenda will be drawing timetables for the release of remainder of Palestinian prisoners. He says that the negotiations will deal with issues not included in the Gaza-Jericho agreement and deployment of Palestinian authority and police throughout the West Bank in preparation for Israeli withdrawal from cities and villages and in preparation for the elections which will be held when withdrawal is completed. He says that those negotiations will "most probably" be held in Gaza and Israel.

Mahmud 'Abbas Views Autonomy in Gaza, Jericho

AU2406112194 Berlin DIE TAGESZEITUNG in German 22 Jun 94 p 3

[Interview with Mahmud 'Abbas, member of the PLO Executive Committee, by Khalil Abied in Tunis; date not given: "'We Have To Get Back as Quickly as Possible'"]

[Text] [Abied] Yasir 'Arafat has declared that he will not go to the autonomous regions as long as the international community holds back funds that have already been promised. The financiers say that the PLO has failed to establish the institutions required for administering the funds. Palestinians, on the other hand, maintain that the funds are being used to put pressure on them. What is the truth?

['Abbas] The Palestinian authorities have to return as quickly as possible. That will be the touchstone for the financiers. Once we are in the Gaza Strip and in Jericho, we will be able to say: Here are our institutions, now, please give us the money you promised. We will not give them any pretext for blocking the money.

[Abied] The experiences of the past few months have not been very encouraging. The talks between the Israelis and the Palestinians were delayed.

['Abbas] Both sides have wasted a lot of time. Now the Palestinian authorities must quickly assume their tasks and tackle the enormous economic and social problems. And we should not forget that there are further negotiations to be held with Israel on the handing over of authorities and the return of refugees.

[Abied] Why do you not want to take part in the autonomy administration? Are you annoyed?

['Abbas] The fact that I was successful in the Oslo talks does not mean that I have to assume part of the power in the autonomous regions. The construction of the Palestinian regions needs young, qualified people. I do not think that I am suitable for a ministerial office.

[Abied] Does this mean that the existing 'revolutionary' institutions of the PLO and the 'revolutionaries' they contain are not in a position to cope with the future stages?

['Abbas] I doubt whether they are up to the complicated challenges. For establishing a school, constructing roads, or working out a development plan we need experts that have a different mentality. It is not shameful for a revolutionary to admit that he cannot build a state.

[Abied] Do the other Palestinian leaders share this view?

['Abbas] Many of my comrades-in-arms have refused to participate in the new Palestinian authorities because they hold similar views. And several of the new "ministers" have been quite reluctant to accept their nomination.

[Abied] You said that there will be a Palestinian state within two years. What makes you so optimistic?

['Abbas] Until the secret talks were held in Oslo it was taboo for the Israelis to negotiate with the PLO. For them we were terrorists. Today there are lively contacts between the two sides, and there is increasing support in the Israeli society for the idea of a Palestinian state. For the Israelis, the most important thing is their security.

That is why much will depend on the capability of the Palestinian authorities to safeguard this. If the Israelis get the feeling that a Palestinian state does not threaten them, they will accept it.

[Abied] Is this not prevented by the Palestinian opposition, especially the Islamic Hamas?

['Abbas] There are two oppositions. The Syria-based 'Alliance of the Ten Organizations' and the opposition in the occupied territories. The first makes a lot of noise, but it does not have any influence. The latter is pragmatic. We have told them: Why should we destroy the possibility of self-rule with our own hands? In a few months' time there will be elections in the autonomous regions. If the majority of Palestinians speak out against the forces of peace and in favor of those who want to continue the struggle, then we will respect this decision.

PLO Envoy Reportedly To Ask for U.S. Financial Aid

LD2306235194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Excerpts] In the file of the Middle East, the PLO is still exerting efforts with Western countries for obtaining financial aid, and at the same time prepares itself for a new round of talks with Israel which will most certainly be held in Cairo. Nabila Khraifia:

[Khraifia] [passage omitted] President 'Arafat sent Abu al-'Ala [Ahmad Quray], economy minister in the Palestinian authority, to Washington to ask for urgent financial aid to ensure the running of the self-rule institutions.

That was announced in Tunis by a Palestinian official who refused to reveal his identity. He also pointed out that the lack of money was the main reason for postponing President 'Arafat's trip to the self-rule areas and the installment of the Palestinian government in Jericho.

The same source pointed out that the donor countries had proposed to offer the PLO last week $ 10 million dollar of the $ 24 million which they promised on 10 June last, and had raised it to $18 million dollar after President Yasir 'Arafat had rejected it.

Suspects in Hamas Member's Murder Under Investigation

NC2406074894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0658 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] Gaza, 24 Jun (MENA)—Counselor Khalid al-Qidrah, public prosecutor of the Palestinian National Authority, has said that suspects in the murder of Nasir Salluhah, an activist in the Hamas Movement who was kidnapped two days ago and whose body was found in Bayt Lahiyah in northern Gaza, are currently under investigation.

In a statement to MENA, he affirmed that if the involvement of one or all the suspects in murdering Salluhah is proved, they will be tried under the standing Palestinian laws.

He said that investigation and speedy trial procedures will be carried out without violating legal requirements.

Salluhah's funeral is scheduled to take place after today's Friday prayer. In addition to Hamas leaders, representatives of all Palestinian organizations and the Palestinian National Authority will take part in the procession.

Police Turn 4 Murder Suspects Over to Israel

TA2406043994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] For the first time, Palestinian forces in the autonomous zones have arrested four murder suspects and turned them over to Israel Police. The four, arrested by police in Jericho, are suspected of the brutal murder of a young Palestinian woman, Fatima 'Abd-al-Hamid, from the village of Baytuniya, near Ramallah. The suspects, from the al-Jalazun refugee camp, escaped to Jericho and, at the request of Israel Police, were extradited.

Algeria

Foreign Minister's Washington Visit Reviewed

LD2306155394 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Foreign Affairs Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri, who has been in Washington since last Monday [20 June] on a working visit to the United States, has reviewed Algeria's domestic and foreign policies to the Arab and international media in the American capital.

We review Dembri's activities in Washington in the following report by Bechir Hedebel:

[Hedebel] On the third day of his visit to Washington Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri held talks with members of the U.S. Senate before going to a lunch banquet held in his honor at the foreign relations council.

The meeting gave Mr. Dembri the opportunity to explain the current efforts aimed at widening the national dialogue and the outcome of his talks with the American officials, in addition to the economic reforms in Algeria, particularly those concerning the transformation to a market economy.

During his meeting with Arab press representatives in Washington yesterday evening, Dembri expressed hopes of achieving better means for Arab consultations in view of the disarray noted in the Yemeni conflict, recalling the efforts made by Zeroual, the head of the state, to contain the crisis since its start by receiving Yemeni envoys or in his telephone calls and the telegrams he sent to the two parties, in which he warned them against the danger of resorting to arms.

During his meeting with the Arab journalists, the minister also focused on the current rapprochement of the national dialogue and the search for consensus. In this respect, he said that a frank exchange of views had taken place with the American officials, which was not in any means an interference in Algerian internal affairs.

On the issue of the Western Sahara, the minister pointed out the international commitments included in the UN peace plan, making it clear that Algeria would try, as much as possible, to help to achieve a political settlement between the two parties to the conflict within the framework of direct dialogue between Morocco and the Polisario Front.

In his assessment of the various talks, Dembri pointed out that the United States stressed its support for the economic and political reforms taking place in Algeria.

Dembri: U.S. Supports Reforms

LD2406133694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] The national dialogue and the economic and political reforms [in the country] were on the agenda of the talks between Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri and U.S. officials. More details on Dembri's talks in the United States with Wahiba Benchihab:

[Benchihab] Mr. Dembri asserted yesterday at his meeting with Arab journalists working in the United States, that his talks with U.S. officials dealt with the national dialogue and the efforts under way to reach a national concord.

He reiterated, furthermore, that Washington supports the economic and political reforms under way in Algeria and is very interested in the process of the transitional period.

Mr. Dembri also reviewed, at a dinner given by the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, the efforts of the Algerian authorities to broaden dialogue in the search for national concord and the outcome of his talks with U.S. officials.

Violent Incidents Continue Throughout Country

Family Murdered in Ain Defla Province

LD1806135394 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] The horrible murder of members of a family were carried out by armed men in Zerdin municipality in Ain Defla province. The family, which consisted of a 70-year-old father, his wife, and their 30-year-old son were shot and killed.

War Veteran Killed in Constantine

LD1906224794 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Excerpts] President Liamine Zeroual today addressed a message of condolence to the secretary-general of the national organization for veterans following the assassination of Rouibah Mohamed, a member of the national council of the organization, yesterday in Constantine. [passage omitted]

Rouibah Mohamed was shot dead yesterday near his home in Constantine by armed individuals.

Attacks Disrupt Tamanrasset Supplies

LD2306143194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Excerpt] National Highway One between In Salah and Tamanrasset was the scene of a series of armed attacks during the last few months. The attacks were carried out by gangs against trucks belonging to the National Road Haulage Company. Faced with such a situation the lorries of the aforementioned company did not have any other solution but to cut short their journey at In Salah, thus starving the region from being supplied with most commodities.

In an attempt to contain the situation, the local authorities at Tamanrasset have taken a number of security measures. [passage omitted]

FIS: 200 Killed in Jun

LD2306193394 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] In a communique issued in Bonn, the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] has just said that more than 200 people have been killed by the security forces in Algeria since the beginning of the month.

FIS: 37 Bodies Found in Mass Grave

LD2406105094 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] In Algeria, according to the representatives abroad of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], about 200 people have been killed by the security forces since the beginning of the month. According to the FIS, they include 37 young people, civilians, executed at Hama, a district in Algiers, by the security forces. Their bodies are reported to have since been found in a mass grave.

Egypt

National Dialogue Congress To Hold Session

NC2306203194 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] The National Dialogue General Congress will hold its first procedural session Saturday evening [25 June] under the chairmanship of Dr. Mustafa Khalil, the congress' moderator general. The opening session will be held on Saturday morning.

During the procedural session there will be a discussion about organizing the congress' three committees. They are the Political, Economic, and Social Committees, the establishment of which was recommended by the National Dialogue Preparatory Committee.

Twenty-two Repentant 'Terrorists' Released

NC2306155694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 23 Jun (MENA)—The second group of terrorists to repent and denounce extremism after realizing the corrupt nature of their ideas and false beliefs was released from Tura Prison this afternoon.

Some 22 people were released—18 from Cairo, two from al-Fayyum, and two from Bani Suwayf. They were arrested after joining the extremist terrorist groups.

They were named as: Ashraf Sabir Muhammad, 'Izzat 'Awad Sulayman, 'Isam Muhammad Muhammad 'Abd-Rabbuh, 'Abd-al-Mun'im Mustafa Mahfuz, Muhammad Ibrahim al-Sayyid Khafajah, 'Abd-al-'Alim 'Ali Husni, Usamah Ahmad Huraydi, 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mahmud Salamah, Muhammad al-Sayyid 'Ali al-Hadini, Hani Imam 'Abd-al-'Aziz Salih, Sayyid Isma'il Hasanayn, Karam Muhammad Nash'at, Ashraf 'Abd-al- Sami' Bakr, 'Isam Fawzi 'Abd-al-'Al, Yasir Anwar Muhammad 'Ali, Mustafa Fawzi 'Abd-al-'Al, Ibrahim Muhammad 'Abd-al-'Aziz, Muhammad Muhammad Ramadan Rizq, Ayman 'Abd-al-'Al Hasan, Jamal 'Abd-al-Fattah Nasrallah, Muhammad Ahmad Mutawalli Mahmud, and Sabir 'Abd-al-Sattar Muhammad.

The released expressed their satisfaction and joy over Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi's decision to release those who repent, denounce all forms of violence and terrorism, and return to society's ranks as good citizens. [passage omitted]

Minister Pledges To Uproot 'Terrorism'

NC2306131494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jun (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has stated that recent achievements by the security forces in various confrontations with the terrorist and extremist elements require the security forces to be more vigilant and to exert greater efforts to achieve the security and stability sought by society and help with construction and development.

He said the security bodies have halted the acts of terrorism and extremism but have not reached "the final point." He stressed that the security bodies are determined to uproot the remnants of the deceived and corrupt elements so as to protect the homeland and citizens from their evil.

Speaking today at the graduation of the first group of graduates from the Police Commissioners Academy, the interior minister said the security forces are not operating alone in combating terrorism; they are backed by the people's forces and supported by the masses, who have realized the real nature of this evil group and what is really going on behind the scenes.

The interior minister said that efforts and achievements have been made in other security fields, such as the political and criminal fields, similar to the achievements in the confrontation of the elements of terrorism and extremism. He stressed that the ideological and media confrontation, together with the courageous security fight, have played an effective role in exposing these criminal elements to the masses.

He praised the graduates of the Police Commissioners Academy, hailing their introduction as a boost to the police presence in the Egyptian street.

Writer Discusses Alleged U.S. Role in Yemen

NC2306154194 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 17 Jun 94 p 4

[Report by Mahmud Bakri]

[Text] When the legitimate Yemeni forces were on the verge of settling the military confrontation in their favor after tightening the noose on the secessionists, reports spoke strongly of Saudi military concentrations on the Yemeni border. This portends the danger that the conflict will expand and deteriorate in that vital region.

The conspiratorial role played by Saudi Arabia against fraternal Yemen is part of an orchestrated campaign led by the United States and carried out by its agents in the region. U.S. State Department reports had warned against the danger of Yemeni unity to the Gulf region in general and to Saudi Arabia in particular. The White House called for the need to accelerate a crisis in Yemen that could kill the unity.

At the time, U.S. oil companies, especially Hunt, had discovered huge oil finds in the south of Yemen, most notably in Hadramaut. The company sent reports to U.S. officials affirming that the Saudi-Yemeni border area had great oil potential. The company expressed its concern over the difficulties it found in digging and prospecting for oil in the Saudi-Yemeni border area.

The company frankly noted that oil exploration and prospecting in the border areas would lead to deep political problems between Yemen and Saudi Arabia. Out of its commitment to the basic motives of the U.S. strategy in the Gulf region, the company asked U.S. officials for advice. It also asked that the necessary measures be taken in this connection.

The report by Hunt clearly indicated that the process of the border demarcation between Saudi Arabia and Yemen does not include clear provisions on who controls the oilfields.

At that time and in accordance with the NAFTA agreement between the United States and its Latin American neighbors, a report by the Canadian company Canoscy mentioned that this region contains—according to initial estimates—only 700 million barrels. Noting that several European companies had begun invading the region, Washington expressed its concern at the effect of this on U.S. interests. The Canoscy report mentioned that around 40 European companies secured privileges to explore and prospect for oil in the region.

In view of this, U.S. officials intervened so that Hunt would get the lion's share of oil prospecting in south Yemen. For this purpose, butcher Schwarzkopf, who led the war to destroy Iraq, and Zionist Henry Kissinger (Both work as advisers to Hunt) paid a secret visit to Saudi Arabia in March. They met Saudi officials and discussed ways to secure full control of Yemeni oil. They claimed that north Yemen promised Iraqi President Saddam Husayn that it would provide him with oil royalties to enable him to rebuild Iraq's military power and regain Iraq's superiority. They also claimed that this deal was cut as part of a plan under which Iraq would modernize the Yemeni army, transfer military and technical expertise to Yemen, and enable Yemen to produce chemical weapons and weapons of mass destruction.

Schwarzkopf and Kissinger claimed that in view of this, Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf states would fall between the jaws of an Iraqi-Yemeni pincer with the aim of controlling the Gulf oil.

Former U.S. President George Bush—who was appointed by Hunt as a senior adviser, in addition to his posts in other oil companies such as Exxon—was holding covert meetings with the Saudi ambassador in Washington, Prince Bandar Bin-Sultan, who was the real leader of the front coordinating with the Americans regarding Yemen.

This was preceded by secret meetings between secessionist leader 'Ali Salim al-Bid—when he was Yemeni vice president—and U.S. Vice President Al Gore during al-Bid's visit to Washington for treatment last summer. Al-Bid asked for a meeting with the U.S. vice president away from the gaze of the Yemeni ambassador in Washington and embassy staff members. Al-Bid granted annual leave to Yemeni Ambassador Muhsin al-'Ayni, who received instructions from the Yemeni leadership in Sanaa to follow up al-Bid's meetings in Washington. The Yemeni ambassador did not realize the motives behind al-Bid's action. So the ambassador informed the Yemeni capital that al-Bid did not intend to hold meetings with U.S. officials.

Information has it that al-Bid met Al Gore, who affirmed that Washington would support him whatever stance he adopted. Al Gore stressed that his country is governed by two basic options regarding Yemeni unity.

The first option: If unity continued, Washington would prefer 'Ali Salim al-Bid to be president of the state of unity. Washington did not trust 'Ali Abdallah Salih's intentions, especially after he supported Iraq during the Gulf crisis.

Regarding this option, al-Bid noted the difficulty in achieving it in the light of the tribal and party makeup inside Yemen, indicating that the congress party enjoyed wide bases of support. But Gore advised him not to pacify the northern leaders, emphasizing that the socialist party should abandon unity as long as it could not assume power.

The second option: Maintaining the secessionist situation inside Yemen.

In this regard, Gore said that Salih's aim behind unity was control of the oilfields in the south and control of strategic straits enjoyed by the south Yemen "state." The first step Salih would take would be to remove the socialist party from power.

Although the U.S. vice president submitted these two options, 'Ali Salim al-Bid did not want unity to continue. He only wanted to explore the U.S. view in this regard.

Gore claimed there was an expected alliance between Yemen and Iraq, which would lead to the loss of south Yemen's wealth. The U.S. vice president gave al-Bid information on Iraqi contacts with Yemen and Jordan to

revive the idea of the Arab Cooperation Council. He submitted false documents on contacts held among the three states in this regard.

According to the reports, al-Bid emerged from that meeting with one impression, namely, the need to abort the unity with north Yemen's leaders and to let south Yemen monopolize its oil resources.

During al-Bid's stay in Washington, a U.S. official gave him an important report on huge oil discoveries in Ma'rib and four other southern areas. The report noted that south Yemen could become an economic giant if it could control its oil resources.

After reading the report, al-Bid met Saudi Ambassador in Washington Bandar Bin-Sultan and asked him to tell the United States of his real desire to secede from north Yemen and of his fears of the consequences of secession if he were left alone in the battlefield to face the northern forces.

Consequently, al-Bid obtained U.S. confirmation that the United States would support his military stance and would not allow the northern forces to get near Aden.

Following al-Bid's return from Washington, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih asked for a report on his visit but al-Bid fabricated a political crisis so as to avoid presenting any reports on his Washington visit.

During that time, Prince Bandar Bin-Sultan arrived in Saudi Arabia on a mission to brief Saudi officials on the outcome of al- Bid's talks in Washington.

When the crisis escalated, the northerners made many concessions for the sake of maintaining Yemeni unity while al-Bid engaged in strengthening his ties with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. His deputy, Salim Salih, played a direct role in obtaining financial support from Kuwait, which was later used to buy weapons for south Yemen.

In light of the escalating developments that preceded the outbreak of war in Yemen, the United States decided to build the largest air base in the Jizan area near the Yemeni border and placed the job of preparing it under the supervision of Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi minister of defense and civil aviation, who cut short a visit to Switzerland for treatment and returned home to supervise the building of the base.

Information indicates that General Schwarzkopf's views were sought. He proposed that the base should target Yemen and Iraq so as to confront any expansion in the war.

These factors were behind the enthusiasm shown by the southerners for the war against the legitimate forces. The promises they got had an effect on the statements that were made during the first days of the war, statements in which they threatened to inflict defeat on the northern forces. But the Yemeni people's rallying behind their national army thwarted the plot of the secessionists and their supporters. This plot is on the verge of final collapse under the blows inflicted on it by those who believe in the unity of the fraternal Yemeni people.

Editorials Warn of Yemen's Effect on Arab Unity

NC2006070494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 20 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jun (MENA)—AL-AHRAM and AL-AKHBAR assert in their editorials today that the continued fighting in Yemen and permitting the language of guns and missiles to gain the upper hand over the language of dialogue and reason do not pose a danger only to Yemen's unity but also have a negative effect on the Islamic and Arab nation.

AL-AHRAM writes that a cease-fire in Yemen is a primary and indispensable condition for resolving the Yemeni crisis and eliminating its causes. It adds that this remains a collective Arab and international demand, as UN Envoy to Yemen Lakhdar Brahimi declared following his meeting with President Husni Mubarak yesterday.

The paper goes on to say: Many observers believe that the northern forces are primarily responsible for the collapse of the efforts to effect a cease-fire. A neutral analysis of the current situation confirms that it is in Sanaa's interest now to abide fully by the cease-fire. It notes that there are two reasons for this; the first is that Sanaa's declared objective from the war is to protect unity and the second is that Sanaa's military operations in the south have apparently reached the limits acceptable at Arab and international, and possibly Yemeni, levels. The declared U.S. warning to northern Yemen's government not to enter Aden is an expression of this fact.

Concluding its editorial, AL-AHRAM expresses its belief that there is an impetus emerging to resolve the Yemeni crisis as the parties to the conflict have agreed to meet in Cairo following Arab and international pressure in order to discuss the appropriate mechanism for implementing the UN Security Council's cease-fire resolution and ensuring constant compliance with it.

In a similar editorial, AL-AKHBAR stresses that the continued fighting in Yemen despite all the Egyptian and Arab appeals to stop the massacres of citizens in the north and the south is the epitome of the tragedies that the Arab world is subjected to.

The paper then refers to Egypt's repeated declarations from the time the crisis began that unity cannot be imposed by force . It refers to its rejection right from the start of the principle of fighting between the sons of the one homeland, regardless of the reasons and causes, including the claims advanced by some that the fighting is to protect Yemen's unity.

AL-AKHBAR calls on some Arab parties who are involved in giving aid to one of the warring parties

merely to serve their vile intentions to stop doing so immediately so as not to help deepen the split in the Arab ranks.

DPRK Envoy Briefs Musa on Korean Crisis

NC2306124894 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today met the North Korean ambassador in Cairo.

Afterward the ambassador said he briefed the foreign minister on developments in the Korean-U.S. crisis and highlighted that Democratic Korea [DPRK] has stressed its desire to solve the crisis through negotiations. He added that Musa conveyed to him Egypt's satisfaction with the positive developments in the Korean peninsula and said that Egypt hopes the crisis will be resolved peacefully.

The ambassador praised the close relations between Egypt and his country and stressed the two countries' desire to develop and strengthen ties in every field.

Slovak Foreign Minister Concludes Visit

NC2306182394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1712 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jun (MENA)—Slovak Foreign Minister Eduard Kukan left Cairo this evening after a three-day visit to Egypt during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

He also met with Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and signed two cooperation agreements with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Morocco

King Hassan Receives Saudi Foreign Minister

LD2306215294 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Hassan II this afternoon at the Royal Palace in Skhirat [a Rabat suburb], received Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, who delivered a private message to His Majesty the King from the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. [passage omitted]

Iran's Embassy Denies Involvement in Arms Cache

LD2306135094 Rabat MAP in English 1315 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Rabat, June 23 (MAP)—Iran's Embassy here denied Thursday involvement in the arms seized lately by Moroccan police and which were destined to the Algerian banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

The Government of Iran has nothing to do with the arms case, the Iranian Embassy said noting that Iran in line with its foreign policy principles does not interfere in domestic affairs of other countries.

An eight-member ring (including six Moroccans and two Moroccans) [as received] were dismantled lately by Moroccan police while attempting to smuggle arms purchased in Europe to FIS via Morocco.

The ring members were sentenced to imprisonment terms varying from 5 to 20 years.

Sudan

Ummah Threatens 'Armed Action' If al-Mahdi Harmed

PM2306154494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 23 Jun 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Nizar Daw-al-Na'im and Kamal Hamid: "Sudan: Ummah Party Threatens To Resort to Armed Action"]

[Excerpts] London, Khartoum—The Sudanese opposition Ummah Party warned yesterday that it will resort to armed action against President 'Umar al-Bashir's regime if the party's leader, former prime minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, and two of the party's other leaders arrested on charges of planning to carry out bombings and political assassination are subjected to "violence" or if "the regime resorts to bloody [physical] liquidation." The party stressed that it "it has not taken any decision to resort to military action and it is still committed to a peaceful solution. However, it is leaving the door open to the option of replying to aggression."

In a press conference they held in London yesterday, attended by some leaders of the other parties who stressed their parties' solidarity and condemned al-Mahdi's arrest, Ummah Party leaders said that "the Ummah Party's principled position is against assassinations and bombings, which the Sudanese scene has never witnessed before and which conflicts with Sudanese ethics."

Mubarak al-Fadil al-Mahdi, head of the party's Executive Bureau and official in charge of external action, said: "We chose political struggle as a means to oppose that military regime without seeking to shed blood or request foreign intervention. Historically, we resorted to armed struggle against aggression twice: once against colonialism and once against (former President Ja'far) Numayri after he destroyed the strongholds of Ansar al-Mahdi [followers of Imam al-Mahdi] and killed their imam." He said: "While we adhere to the peaceful struggle option, we keep our other options open. And if the ruling (National Islamic) Front resorts to violence and to bloody liquidation and opens the door of aggression, our party will leave the door open to the resumption of armed action." [passage omitted]

Dr. 'Umar Nur-al-Da'im, secretary general of the Ummah Party, also spoke at the conference, stressing that "the political and economic crises the regime is experiencing, as well as the crises in its relations with the world, prompted the fabrication of accusations against the party's leaders. The fabrication of this kind of theatrical ploy is characteristic of military regimes, because they are based on conspiracy and have no legitimacy." He said that al-Bashir's regime "has been tyrannical for five years and lacks constitutional legitimacy, as it has done the opposite of what it promised in its first statement."

He pointed out that "the rejection of the regime has begun to increase while popular and regional support for it has declined, and there is now a general belief that the regime is about to collapse."

He said that the recent accusations against al-Mahdi are made "because he managed to set up a leadership for the Democratic National Grouping inside the country and to establish strong opposition committed to civil resistance." He added that "al-Mahdi insists on this line despite the the great pressures put on him to engage in an armed battle with the regime." He said that the Ummah Party does not want a military confrontation, "because the loser will be the people of Sudan and those representing them, not the small (Islamic) Front organization." He said that an armed confrontation would mean turning Sudan into a situation similar to the one Rwanda is currently experiencing.

He believes that leveling accusations at the Ummah Party "is a trick designed to avoid the scandals that the defendants being tried in the Ansar al-Sunnah Mosque massacre case could reveal."

He stressed that "the political and economic siege, corruption, the regime's isolation, and international condemnations of it have caused the regime to behave hysterically. And we will confront the Front if it persists in its behavior. We are optimistic that the regime is about to collapse, and its actions will change nothing in the situation. We are against violence and have not yet decided on the armed action option. But if physical liquidations begin, we will have to reply to that aggression." [passage omitted]

Tunisia

President Ben Ali Receives PRC Official

LD2306151894 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Excerpts] At the Carthage Palace this morning President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received Luo Gan, state councillor and secretary-general of the PRC State Council, in the presence of Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia and An Huihou, the PRC ambassador to Tunis.

Luo Gan said that his talks with the president were held in an atmosphere exemplifying the sentiments of Tunisian-Chinese friendship and cordiality. He added that relations between Tunisia and China have always been good and that the exchange of visits between high level officials and bilateral cooperation in various fields continues. [passage omitted]

The Chinese state councillor pointed out that Tunisia and China are currently carrying out a process of reform and transformation which would provide extensive fields from which the two countries can benefit.

At the end of his statement he said: We hope that the friendly Tunisian people will achieve further great successes under the leadership of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Top GCC Official Deplores Fighting in Yemen

LD2106015494 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2145 GMT 20 Jun 94

[Text] Riyadh, 20 June, SPA—The assistant secretary general for political affairs at the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], ambassador 'Abd-al-Aziz Bu'ali, has stressed the anxiousness of their majesties and highnesses the leaders of the GCC countries to back any joint Arab action and to sanction Arab unity in any part of the Arab homeland, proceeding from their belief that any cooperation gives strength to the Arab nation and consequently the Muslim nation.

At a press conference held today at the GCC headquarters in Riyadh, he said: "When Yemen's unity was established in May 1990 the GCC countries supported and sanctioned this unity which came about with mutual consent".

He also talked about the great efforts made by the GCC to stop the conflict between the brethren in Yemen and find a suitable ground to solve the conflict through negotiations and away from bloodshed, massacres and destruction.

He reviewed the efforts made by the servant of the two holy places, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, and their brothers the GCC leaders to contain this crisis. He then deplored the worsening of the conflict between the two sides which led to the destructive war going on in Yemen now. He stressed that the fundamental view of the GCC states now was to insist on a cease-fire.

In reply to a question on the nature of measures which the GCC states could take if the fighting continued between the two sides, Ambassador Bu'ali said he hoped that fighting would end between the two sides, otherwise other steps would have to be taken either by the GCC states or the Security Council. He added that the goal which the GCC states were pursuing was to stop the bloodshed and the destruction. He further said: What matters to us now is to stop the fighting and prevent the flames of war from spreading here and there, and as for the rest—everything will be examined accordingly and we will deal with the developments in the future.

In reply to a question on the GCC center for commercial arbitration, he indicated that the center was set up to arbitrate disputes which might arise between a trader and companies or between other traders involved in similar commercial activities with the GCC states abroad [as received]. Finally, he reviewed the commercial projects which would be executed in the framework of cooperation among the GCC states.

Kuwait

Minister on Ties With Egypt, Human Rights

NC2406093294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0730 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] Kuwait, 24 Jun (MENA)—Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim has said there is full cooperation and coordination between Egypt and Kuwait on various issues concerning the two countries, especially relating to security. He noted that there is continuous consultation among officials.

In a statement to MENA, he denied any form of extremism or terrorism in Kuwait, be it intellectual or ideological. He emphasized that everyone has the right to openly state his view within the law and general controls.

He said security in Kuwait is very stable and that everything is now under control. He added that most of the negative security aspects that emerged after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait have been eliminated. He affirmed that security reports coming in from the various sectors indicate that Kuwait now enjoys greater security and stability than before. He denied there were any human rights violations in Kuwait.

He said there are around 180,000 maids from various countries in Kuwait, who enjoy their full rights. He added that the Kuwaiti authorities do not approve of anyone's material or moral rights being violated in Kuwait and noted malicious foreign media reports trying to damage Kuwait's reputation.

He said Kuwait respects and preserves human rights and the security and safety of all workers in Kuwait, adding that there are around 1 million foreigners from 120 countries working in Kuwait and that their rights are respected.

Commenting on talk of tension between National Assembly deputies and the Kuwaiti Interior Ministry, he said relations between ministry officials and the National Assembly are proceeding well. He noted that everyone's basic goal is to preserve public order and stabilize the situation on every level.

Qatar

Yemeni Deputy Premier Meets Foreign Minister

JN2306122094 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1135 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Doha, 23 Jun (WAKH)—Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr al-Thani today met with Yemeni Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Anisi, who is currently visiting Doha.

Doha radio reported the two officials discussed relations between the two countries and means of developing

them, as well as the current conditions in the region. The Yemeni official left Doha today.

Saudi Arabia

Citizens Said Arrested for Position on Yemen

JN2306140494 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 16 Jun 94 p 16

[Report from Nicosia]

[Excerpt] Authorities of [Saudi King] Fahd launched a wide arrest campaign against elements opposed to the policy of al-Sa'ud over the past two weeks.

Travelers from Jeddah said the arrests, carried out by intelligence elements of Fahd's regime, included a large number of citizens from the Kingdom's southern areas. Those arrested include religious men and tribal chieftains who refuse the regime's interference in Yemen's internal affairs and demand preserving the unity of the two parts of Yemen. [passage omitted]

Senegalese Foreign Minister Arrives

LD2306211194 Riyadh SPA in English 1933 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Jeddah, June 23, (SPA)—Senegalese Foreign Minister Moustapha Niasse arrived here tonight on a visit to the Kingdom.

He was greeted at the King Abdulaziz International Airport by Salem Sunbol, ambassador at the foreign ministry, Abdallah al-Tubayashi, the Saudi ambassador to Senegal, Paba Abdou Cisse, the Senegalese ambassador to the Kingdom, and a representative of the royal protocol.

Yemen

Salih Assails al-Bid, Urges Use of Amnesty

JN2306075994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, yesterday met with the brother ulema, men of religion, social figures, representatives of political parties and popular and youth organizations, and military men in al-Dali' District, who expressed to the brother president their happiness over their meeting with him, as he is a national symbol who has epitomized concern about the homeland and its unity, who has proved his love for the people, and who backs their causes and goals. They indicated that the residents of the al-Dali' District, who have offered convoys of martyrs and heroic strugglers to obtain freedom and achieve independence, are willing to make dear sacrifices to safeguard and strengthen Yemeni unity. They will also, they noted, lend their wholehearted support for unity and legitimacy in continuation of the struggles waged by the residents of the al-Dali' District throughout their national struggle.

The al-Dali' District representatives reaffirmed their readiness to make dear sacrifices to safeguard unity and confront its enemies, whoever they may be. They noted that our Yemeni people cannot survive without unity, which is our people's fate and destiny. Similarly, there can be no future for our Yemeni people without unity. They asserted that the traitorous and agent rebels only represent their treacherous psyches. Their objectives will never be achieved, they said. Our people, and their Armed Forces will repulse their schemes, which are hostile to the people and their unity.

The al-Dali' District representatives affirmed that unity ended the fragmentation nightmare, as well as the tyrannical party rule. They explained that the attempts to rehabilitate fragmentation, regardless of the form this might take, and of the person who might attempt this, is a betrayal of the people's aspirations and struggles, and also of the sacrifices made by their righteous martyrs. They added that the sons of the 26 September revolution and the 14 October revolution, and the strugglers of the liberation war will be loyal to the principles upheld by our people and their Armed Forces, chief among which are the revolution and unity. They also noted the deceptive propaganda promoted by the rebellious secessionists and the erroneous misrepresentation of facts to citizens to delude the public. They mentioned the torture and oppression being perpetrated by the traitorous rebels against the innocent residents of Aden, who are being used as human shields, who are being forced to bear arms, and who are also being forcibly sent to death. They urged their misled brothers and sons not to allow themselves to be taken in by the propaganda of the rebellious secessionists, and to quickly rejoin the forces of unity and legitimacy, where they normally belong. By so doing, they will take advantage of the general amnesty. Moreover, they will also help end the bloodletting in Yemen and defeat the schemes that aim to end unity and destroy the homeland.

The Presidential Council chairman then spoke, welcoming the brother ulema, men of religion, social figures, and party leaders of al-Dali' District. He pointed out that the brotherly meeting came after a tragedy befell the homeland as a result of the conspiracies and after the agents rebelling against legitimacy decided to ignite sedition due to their conspiratorial system, which they have inherited and on which they have been brought up in return for a handful of desecrated money. These sides, he said, worked to escalate the military situation in Abyan, 'Imaran, Dhamar, Aden, and al-Dali' as part of a hellish plan to disrupt the homeland.

The brother president said: We talked about that plan, which began after the traitor and secessionist agent, al-Bid, returned from abroad and after he received the price of secession and the blood of the sons of the homeland. Traitor al-Bid, he added, actually began his plan through the resounding speeches he delivered in

al-Dali' District to ignite sedition, whose price he had received. The brother president said: Al-Bid and his supporters, like the traitors al-'Attas, Bin-Husaynun, al-Sayli, and al-Jifri, have deposited the money they received at European banks. These people have received the price of the Yemeni's people's blood and ignited sedition in the homeland to disrupt it. He pointed out that these traitors tried exercising a media disinformation campaign to win the feelings of the masses, only for a short time though, because the people discovered their nature and that of the slogans the traitor al-Bid used to repeat, like the civilized project, which means to these traitorous agents destruction, death, secession, and stirring up sectarian differences in the name of Qahtani, 'Adnani, Zaidite, Shafi'ite, southerner, northerner, and other sectarian differences.

The brother president said the traitor al-Bid has been lying to the people because he is skilled at lying, he is psychologically ill, he suffers from an inferiority complex, and he is known for his conspiracies against Qahtan al-Sha'bi, Faysal 'Abd-al-Latif al-Sha'bi, the diplomats, 'Abd-al-Fattah Isma'il, 'Ali 'Antar, 'Ali Hadi Sha'i, Salih Muslih, and 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. If he finds no one against whom he can conspire, he conspires against himself. The brother president said: This is not a vilification, but it is the truth. Our Yemeni people are paying the price in blood and in destruction for what the terrorist rebels have spread in the homeland.

The brother president also said that during the crisis, he informed several people in the Districts of al-Dali', Radfan, and Yafi' that al-Bid would carry out his secessionist plan, that their sons would become fuel for that plan as they are fighters, and that al-Bid would be the first to escape. We, he added, also advised Haytham when he was still defense minister not to be drawn into the secessionist plan and to support unity, but, regrettably, he was drawn into that plan in return for money. These people did not remember the martyrs' of the revolution and martyr strugglers 'Ali 'Antar, Salih Muslih, Sha'i' Hadi, 'Abd-al-Fattah Isma'il, and others, who were staunch advocates of unity.

The brother president added: The traitorous agent secessionists created sedition in the homeland. We have not sought to see a single drop of blood shed in Yemen, neither by those who are supporting unity and legitimacy, nor by those opposed to them, who, in the final analysis, are our sons. To avert this, we have attempted dialogue. We have gone to Jordan and signed a pledge and accord document there to end the crisis and spare our country all problems. Nonetheless, the rebels were bent on causing a flare-up in the situation in implementation of their secessionist plan, which is eventually targeted against the Hadramaut Governorate.

The brother president went on to say: The al-Dali' residents have always been at the forefront of strugglers, who upheld the slogan of unity, because they believe that their pride and honor are ensured when there is unity. The blood being shed right now is meant to safeguard unity and legitimacy. And here our people have lost men and property. Would the result then be fragmentation? Would the result be the division of the country into two Yemens just to gratify the desires of a few people who have received a price for the crisis, infighting, and secession, and who will eventually flee the homeland to use their money after having caused fires in the homeland?

The brother president said: We thank the brother residents of the al-Dali' District. We highly appreciate their cooperation with the forces of unity and legitimacy. We also thank the fighters hailing from the al-Dali' District, who are currently waging an honorable battle in defense of unity, and who are making sacrifices to safeguard unity, as they made sacrifices to vindicate the revolution and achieve independence in the past. All, people and parties, are currently melting in the crucible of the homeland and forming a broad front in the face of the traitorous and rebellious secessionists.

The brother president added: Today, we reiterate the call for the brothers who have been misled into fighting on the side of falsehood to take advantage of the opportunity granted them by the general amnesty to rid themselves of the coma they are suffering due to media deception and propaganda so that they may rejoin the ranks of the strugglers vindicating unity and legitimacy, where they actually belong. They should not agree to become tools of destruction manipulated by the traitors, agents, and mercenaries, who have sold themselves to the enemies of unity in return for a handful of filthy money.

The brother president stressed that the military personnel and civilians who choose to rejoin the ranks of unity and legitimacy will obtain all their rights, on an equal footing with their colleagues at all departments. They will be welcomed and accorded due attention. This would be an honor for them. Additionally, this would halt the bloodletting and vindicate their people's will, which has always been in favor of unity, because it is the epitome of their pride and dignity.

The brother president indicated that a government committee has been formed to account for the losses in human lives and property, and to take the necessary measures to rebuild what has been destroyed due to this sedition caused by the rebels. He added: We have instructed that all people be dealt with on an equal footing, regardless of whether they supported the state and legitimacy or were misled. This is because they all are our sons.

The brother president affirmed that the traitorous rebels have conspired against the Yemeni Socialist Party to liquidate it and marginalize its role. And here, the picture is unfolding before your very eyes. And now you see the traitor al-Jifri, and the sultans, whose ouster was sought by the 26 September and 14 October armies and strugglers of the liberation war, returning to implement a plan to tear the homeland apart. He added: This will

never happen, for the Yemeni people, their Armed Forces, and their security troops will lie in wait for these traitors and mercenaries, regardless of the sacrifices entailed.

Concluding his speech, the brother president said: We welcome you once again, and clasp your hands as unity-oriented strugglers. You must do your best to explain the facts and repulse the traitorous secessionists. As for the future, God willing, it will bring prosperity to our Yemeni homeland under the canopy of unity and democracy.

Council Member 'Abd-al-Ghani Returns to Sanaa

JN2306181694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Summary from poor reception] Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, member of the Presidential Council and assistant secretary general of the General People's Congress, returned to Sanaa from a foreign tour this morning.

Acting Premier Inspects Food Storehouses

JN2306210594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Summary from poor reception] Acting Prime Minister Brother Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar has visited al-Hudaydah Governorate and inspected storehouses of basic food and became acquainted with the food situation there.

Al-'Attar emphasized that measures should be taken to ensure that food regularly reaches the governorate and that monopoly of goods should be fought.

In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', brother al-'Attar stressed that the quantities of food available in various storehouses are sufficient and reassuring, and there is no reason at all for concern.

He said the Council of Ministers will resume its meeting next Sunday [26 June] to discuss supply issues.

Al-Asnaj Predicts 'Exhaustion' of Sanaa War Machine

PM2306152294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 23 Jun 94 p 6

[Interview with 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, "foreign minister of the Democratic Republic of Yemen," by unidentified correspondent in Paris; date not given]

[Text] [AL-HAYAH] How would you assess the talks you held in Cairo recently?

[Al-Asnaj] The meetings held in Cairo, especially those concerning the mission of the UN secretary general's special envoy, Lakhdar Brahimi, were separate meetings with a southern delegation that had powers to discuss details of the stages of implementing Security Council Resolution 924, and a northern delegation that did not have sufficient powers or no powers at all. Because the delegation did not represent the authorities or the state. It was a partisan delegation from the alliance of the General People's Congress and the Reform Grouping.

We considered this an attempt by Sanaa to gain time by extending Brahimi's mission in the region without achieving any progress with regard to a halt to the ongoing war. We informed Brahimi of our view and willingness to meet with him at the United Nations if the northern side expresses similar willingness to engage in serious commitments aimed primarily at securing a cease-fire and hence searching for a suitable mechanism to ascertain the warring parties' compliance with the cease-fire arrangements.

We proposed a mechanism whereby a body would supervise the cease-fire, in addition to an implementing body to operate on the ground and include northern and southern elements together with Omani and Jordanian representatives, that is after the approval of the two countries' governments. And then work later to broaden the scale of Arab participation and form two African and Asian groups to work under UN auspices and the supervision of its secretary general. I believe that from his visits to Sanaa and al-Mukalla Brahimi gathered specific ideas and sufficient information to include in the report he is going to submit to the secretary general. We will read this report when we go to the United Nations at the end of the week, where we will meet with [Butrus-] Ghali.

[AL-HAYAH] Assuming that Brahimi's report points to Sanaa's intransigence, what will the next possible step be?

[Al-Asnaj] The war issue in Yemen no longer concerns the Yemenis alone. It is a disaster for the Yemenis first. We are not a state, nor do we enjoy full rights at the United Nations. But there are states concerned with what is happening in Yemen and which could—in the immediate term—pose a threat to the region's security and stability.

Ssnaa has on numerous occasions announced a date for a cease-fire, but it failed to observe it. We had hoped that it would prove its seriousness, specify what it wants, and present its view of how the cease-fire can be consolidated to enable Brahimi to compare and define common denominators. But Sanaa has not specified what it wants or how it understands the Security Council resolution. So it is now futile to continue a dialogue of the deaf while the fighting continues to escalate, especially in Aden, where missiles are being fired at civilian targets and causing painful human losses.

[AL-HAYAH] What are your expectations as regards future events in Yemen?

[Al-Asnaj] The northern war machine will reach the point of exhaustion by attrition. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has deployed his forces over a vast area of land. And most of these forces are suffering a great deal, especially as they

were stationed originally on southern territory. The al-'Amaliqah brigade has been in Abyan for four years and has made its arrangements for a long stay and adopted the human shield method along Iraqi lines. These forces are no longer in a comfortable situation, and I believe that they will retreat when they realize that they are exhausted—which will open the door to new Arab and international mediations and endeavors to reconcile the two parts of Yemen. As for the unity issue, it is settled. We cannot preserve unity on the basis of pools of blood and the Yemeni people's skulls. A unity that began through dialogue and amicably must end through dialogue and amicably, because Sanaa is not far from Aden, and vice versa. The possibility of establishing relations within another framework, as was the case four years ago, can be considered.

The brothers in Syria agreed to separate from Iraq and later agreed not to establish unity with Iraq for regional reasons, so why insist on Yemeni unity? Arab unity has gone through numerous experiences, and maybe there was negligence in how to establish it, because it is more emotional than practical.

[AL-HAYAH] Do you not fear the country's fragmentation?

[Al-Asnaj] The war is consolidating the position of resistance and steadfastness, and if there were any political collapses inside the country, the situation would have been different.

Southern Officials Call For Sanctions on Sanaa

LD2306220594 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Officials in Aden called on the United Nations to impose sanctions on the government of Sanaa to lift the siege it was imposing on Aden.

Anis Yahiya, head of the south Yemeni delegation touring Western Europe and the United States, said in a news conference he held in London that the threat of imposing sanctions was the only means to stop the northern bombardment of Aden.

He added that the sanctions would force Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdullah Salih to comply with UN Security Council Resolution No. 924, which called for a cease-fire in Yemen.

That came at a time when the intensity of the continued northern shelling of Aden and its suburbs had increased.

A southern communique affirmed that the northern shelling had caused the death and wounding of 800 people since 17 June instant. [passage omitted]

An official in Aden said that the main plant for generating electricity was subjected to an aerial and artillery bombardment by the northern forces, a matter which led to a power supply cut in Aden and caused heavy losses to the plant.

Aden Spokesman Appeals for International Help

NC2306214994 Paris AFP in English 2123 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Report by Maher Chmaytelli]

[Text] Aden, Yemen, June 23 (AFP)—Fighting on frontlines around Aden and northern attacks on the city left 30 people dead and nearly 150 others wounded Thursday [23 June], and the south appealed for foreign intervention to break the stranglehold.

The bombardments began at dawn, continued through the day and were still in progress as night fell. Twenty-two civilians were killed and around 100 wounded as Katyusha rockets slammed into the city's northern suburbs and shells hit the city centre, officials at Aden's main hospital said.

Fierce fighting on the north and northwestern fronts left eight soldiers dead and 48 wounded when northern troops launched two offensives, according to the city's other hospitals. Wounded taken to the main hospital had to be treated in the corridors because of lack of space, while weeping relatives crowded the courtyard.

A spokesman for the breakaway Yemen Democratic Republic said on Aden Radio: "Following renewed, blind bombardments by the north of Aden, we urgently call on the international community to impose a cease-fire by force." He appealed for northern troops loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to be forced to withdraw from the south and to be treated as war criminals.

Aden Radio called on the town's citizens to "join in the defence," assuring them there had been no breakthrough by northern forces, while television read out an army communique indicating "resistance operations" within territory held by northern forces. The army statement said 47 northern troops had been killed in the previous 48 hours during two "resistance" operations in the Lahij region, some 100 kilometres (60 miles) north of Aden.

Military sources here said the north had managed to seize the entrance to the town of Bi'r Ahmad, 15 kilometres (nine miles) northwest of Aden, close to one of the city's three power stations. The plant was hit by eight Katyushas, causing a fire in fuel pipelines and resulting in a partial shutdown and power cuts in several Aden districts. A cloud of dust and sand hung over Bi'r Ahmad caused by explosions as a Toyota car, with a siren blaring, scoured the area picking up dead and wounded soldiers.

Electricity was restored to many districts in the city after a power cut caused by a rocket attack on the Hiswah power plant, west of Aden.

On the northern front the battle raged for control of the pumping station at Bi'r Nasir which provides Aden's drinking water supplies.

Two shells hit the fish market at Ma'allah on the sea front and a salvo of Kaytusha rockets destroyed five houses in the working class district of Mansurah. Shells fell on Aden at the rate of two or three a minute and the Khormaksar district near the airport and northern suburbs near the front were also hit.

Southern leaders said in a statement that 800 civilians had been killed or wounded by northern attacks on Aden and its suburbs since June 17.

Salih and southerners backing his rival 'Ali Salim al-Bid have been locked in civil war for almost two months.

"The Sanaa regime is continuing to defy the international community," the statement added, referring to a UN Security Council resolution adopted on June 1 calling for an immediate ceasefire and the start of talks.

The north's Planning Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani is en route for Washington where he is to meet with UN Secretary General Butros Butros-Ghali to discuss the war which broke out on May 5. Al-Iryani will also meet UN special envoy Lakhdar Brahimi who failed to broker a truce during a 10-day tour of the region, the official SABA' agency said.

The north demands that the south renounce its May 21 declaration of a separate state before entering talks.

The minister, scheduled to hold talks in Washington with U.S. State Department officials, will discuss the "means to apply UN Resolution 924 in the context of Yemeni unity," the agency said.

The war shattered four years of uneasy union between the former Marxist South Yemen and conservative, tribal North Yemen.

Meanwhile in Cairo, Russian Ambassador Vladimir Polyakov said any recognition by Russia of the breakaway state would depend on the findings of Brahimi's report.

Northern Troops 'Marking Time' Outside Aden

NC2406060894 Paris AFP in English 2254 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Report by Suleiman Nimr]

[Text] Zinjibar, Yemen, June 24 (AFP)—Northern troops are marking time on fronts around the besieged southern Yemeni city of Aden, an AFP correspondent reported late Thursday [23 June] from the frontline.

"For two weeks now we have not moved a metre," said Colonel 'Ali Salim Muhammad of the 17th Brigade stationed here, 20 kilometres (12 miles) east of Aden. "We could easily enter Aden, but we are waiting for the order from political leaders in Sanaa," the colonel added. "For the time being, we make do with bombarding military targets in Aden, especially the military camp at Khor Maksar."

Aden hospital sources earlier reported that 30 people had been killed Thursday and nearly 150 wounded as north Yemeni gunners shelled the southern stronghold, prompting the south to appeal for foreign intervention to break the stranglehold. The bombardment began at dawn, continued through the day and was still in progress as night fell.

Fierce fighting on the north and northwestern fronts meanwhile left eight soldiers dead and 48 wounded after northern troops launched two offensives, according to the city's other hospitals. The north's second lieutenant, Mujahid 'Ali Husayn, meanwhile said northern troops had moved some two kilometres (one mile) forward on Saturday [25 June], after repulsing a "desperate counter-attack by (southern) secessionists."

Colonel 'Ali Shaykh 'Umar, commanding officer in Abyan 25 kilometres (16 miles) east of Aden, admitted that "northern fire has hit civilians by mistake," but said that was "very rare." Since northern troops launched their unrelenting assualt on the port a week ago 108 civilians have been killed and 387 wounded, according to hospital officials.

Northern troops listened to patriotic songs played over a loud-speaker mounted on a military vehicle as they fired shells on Aden. But the songs did not drown out the explosions of shells fired by the south's heavy artillery from the besieged city.

Southern shells fell sporadically into the desert near the brigade's positions, and southern warplanes buzzed Abyan regularly, flying high to avoid northern anti-aircraft fire. Burned-out remains of northern troop-carriers, destroyed in southern air raids, were strewn around the dusty Al-Aslam region some 15 kilometres (nine miles) from Aden. But northern soldiers were visibly relaxed in the scorching sun, as they washed themselves with scalding water from an enormous tank mounted on a rickety lorry.

War broke out between northern forces loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and those of his southern rival 'Ali Salim al-Bid on May 5. So far, all attempts to mediate a ceasefire have failed.

Saddam Chairs Cabinet Meeting, Discusses Legislation

JN2406053194 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect and preserve him, has chaired a Cabinet meeting. The Cabinet discussed, within the course charted by his excellency for its actions and discussions, subjects related to improving production, efficient performance, flexibility and quick response in the administrative field, and fairness and balance between duties and rights.

The Cabinet discussed a plan to produce and improve seeds, executed by al-Iba' Agricultural Research Center, which this year achieved self-sufficiency in the production of potato seeds and is seeking to achieve self-sufficiency in the production of seeds for some vegetables and legumes. The Cabinet decided to support al-Iba' Center with the necessary financial funds to maintain the link between the center and potato growers.

The Cabinet also discussed the situation of the cooperative movement in the country, its structures, and the proposals made to develop it. In this regard, the leader president, may God protect him, stressed the need for discussing how the cooperative societies can develop their own resources and not turn to state support except in emergency cases. He said we must distinguish between incorrect implementations and the lack of correct or fair programs. The cooperative movement, he said, must play its role among the people within the concept of cooperation.

His excellency urged the ministers, saying: When you propose a law or an amendment to a law, your main concern must be how this law or amendment will achieve justice and how will it take into consideration the interests of all people in a fair way. Any law that ignores this basic aspect or includes an accumulation of forbidden things, particularly the unnecessary ones, will help create a trend to violate it. The application of a fair law, in which obligations and rights are balanced and clear, will not only achieve justice, but will also ease the pressure on courts.

His excellency said: We must also take note that certain policies and laws are right in certain circumstances. But when the circumstances change, we must set a new policy, a course, and legislation must correspond to our new circumstances instead of harming the citizen and the state and not achieving the justice required by the new circumstance.

His excellency added: Each minister must review the laws within the context of this course, which will make one take pride in the state and belonging to it. Proposals to consider these laws must be made. We still have work to build upon and we can do this as quickly as we can.

Columnist Denies Arrest of Iraqi Pilots in Yemen

JN1706163794 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 8 Jun 94 p 3

["Standpoint" column by Hadi Tu'mah: "The Separatists and This Cheap Lying"]

[Text] Since their condemned separatist movement, the renegades in Yemen have been making false accusations against Iraq whenever their subversive movement's link with the Saudi and Gulf rulers has been exposed, their military situation has become critical, and their resistance has weakened before the advance of the unionist legitimacy.

The last of these exposed lies is the claim about the arrest of five Iraqi pilots who, in fact, are teachers of fine arts and physical education. Iraqi and Yemeni departments have documents proving they are nothing more than teachers.

It is clear from the course of events that this absurd claim coincided with the successive defeats of the separatists and the emergence of a suspect role spearheaded by Riyadh on behalf of Washington against the Arab nation and its legitimate advancement. This confirms the deep involvement of the separatist clique in the hostile plan of Washington and Zionism to undermine Arab will and the source of its strength. It also confirms the failure of the agent clique's suspect plot.

If these are some of the reasons for the separatist clique's resort to the fabrication of lies against Iraq, the other reason is the clean Arab stand Iraq has adopted in support of legitimacy and the unity state, which is a result of the will of the Yemeni people and all their political parties, including that of the separatists themselves. Another reason is the mean and trivial attempt of the separatists to exploit the anomalous political attitude toward Iraq, due to the mean conspiratorial role played by the clique of Gulf rulers, the odious attempt on Yemeni legitimacy, and the attempt to carry out a reactionary movement embodied by the condemned secession. This imposed Gulf stand has been condemned by the unionists of southern Yemen, headed by Muhammad Basandwah.

No sooner had the subject of Saudi military intervention been exposed, especially by the Yemeni legitimacy forces' seizure of 80 tanks, than the separatists made up the lie about the arrest of five Iraqis, and Saudi television showed pictures of these Iraqis. The Saudi regime and its overlords know better. These Iraqis are just teachers.

This method of making false accusations and instigations, despite the aforementioned facts, confirms the miserable political and moral bankruptcy of the clique of separatists and those standing behind them. It also acquits Iraq of any charges.

APFC Official Meets Yemeni Delegation

JN1906145794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1340 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 19 Jun (INA)—Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, secretary general of the Arab Popular Forces Conference [APFC], today received the visiting Yemeni House of Representatives' delegation led by Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Kibsi.

In a speech he delivered, Sa'd Qasim Hammudi reiterated that all nationalist and pan-Arab forces in the Arab homeland support Yemen's unity and it constitutional legitimacy against secessionist colonialist attempts, which are backed by reactionaries and are aimed at disrupting Yemen's unity, which is a pan-Arab accomplishment that has been made through huge sacrifices.

He added that Yemen's unity constitutes a strength for the Arab nation in its confrontation of the evil, hostile, and reactionary forces threatening the nation's present and future. [passage omitted]

Barzani Attends Joint PUK-KDP Information Meeting

NC1906171094 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] Yesterday evening Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, attended the joint meeting held by the information offices of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan and the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP]. The meeting was held in the KDP Political Bureau Headquarters in Salah al-Din summer resort in the Irbil Governorate. During the meeting, the conferees discussed joint information issues and made the necessary decisions. The meeting lasted over one hour.

KDP Denies 'Secret' Talks With Government

PM2306154094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 23 Jun 94 p6

[Unattributed report: "Barzani's Party Denies Negotiation with Baghdad"]

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—The unified Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP], led by Mas'ud Barzani, has affirmed that it "has no intention of holding secret negotiations with Baghdad. If it became convinced that negotiations would serve the interests and aims of our people then it would hold negotiations openly as it had done in the negotiations with successive Iraqi governments." It emphasized that it "saw no point in negotiating with the regime."

A statement by the KDP's spokesman, which AL-HAYAH received yesterday, said that the report published by AL-HAYAH on Tuesday under the headline "Barzani resumed negotiations with Baghdad" was "unfounded" and that the report was "leaked for selfish partisan and political purposes by a party to the recent dispute" in Iraqi Kurdistan "with the aim of casting doubt on the KDP's position in the Iraqi opposition."

The statement added: "That is confirmed by the fact that the KDP has obtained a Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] secret internal bulletin number 24, dated 19 June 1994, containing the same information published in AL-HAYAH's report. That source was the only source, referred to as reliable Kurdish Iraqi sources. We do not believe that such practices would help the current peace process and reconciliation in Iraqi Kurdistan following the containment of the destructive crisis.

"To clarify the truth we also say that the members of the KDP's alleged delegation which was supposed to include Yunis Ruzbayani and 'Izzat Sulayman Bik and to have visited Baghdad on 11 and 12 June, actually never left the Kurdish area at all in that period. In addition to being a member of the Central Committee, Ruzbayani is also the interior minister in the regional government and he was in his office in Irbil during that period as many employees can testify. As for 'Izzat Sulayman, he was grieved when his son Aram was killed in the recent fighting, and he never left the area in that period because of the tragedy and the condolences procedures. No other official went to Baghdad. The unified KDP has no intention of holding secret negotiations with Baghdad. If it became convinced that negotiations would serve the interests and aims of our people then it would hold them openly as it has done with successive Iraqi governments, but the party sees no point in negotiation with the regime and it is committed to the policy and objectives of the Unified Iraqi National Congress, which are: promoting a democratic alternative and fulfilling the Kurdish people's aspiration to a federation within a peaceful, united, and democratic Iraq."

Pro-Government Iraqi Kurdish Party Ends Meeting

JN2306205894 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] The Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] has reaffirmed that the Iraqi Kurds are standing in one line against the forces of evil and aggression in defense of the unity, dignity, and independence of great Iraq under President leader Saddam Husayn.

This came in a statement issued by the party at the end of an ordinary meeting held today. The meeting was devoted to discussing the situation in Iraqi Kurdistan and the tragic events there as a result of the bloody armed clashes between the traitors and agents belonging to the humiliated Barzani and Talabani as well as the ongoing events in fraternal Yemen whose national unity is threatened with secession and apostasy.

In its statement, the party emphasized that despite all the imperialist conspiracies and intrigues and the mean 30-state aggression as well as the subsequent traitorous and treacherous chapters—which have continued incessantly in the form of the continued blockade on the Iraqi

people's Arabs, Kurds, and other fraternal nationalities—the Iraqi people, by virtue of their steadfastness and endurance, have managed to foil all forms, links, and chapters of the conspiracy and preserve their national unity with their heads high behind the banner of God is Great. This banner is carried with all vigor and loftiness by the unique President leader Saddam Husayn.

In the statement, the party said that such traitors and agents as Barzani and Talabani are symbols of agentry and crime. The forces of the U.S.-Zionist evil and aggression deputized these agents to implement a subversive and criminal conspiracy against the Iraqi people after they failed to achieve their objectives during the brutal 30-state aggression and its successive chapters with the aim of isolating Iraqi Kurdistan from Iraq, the mother homeland. These forces also lured these agents into giving them a free hand in the region and fulfilling their sick dreams at the expense of the struggle, blood, and martyrs of the Iraqi Kurds who continue to be a true sword defending the unity of both lofty Iraq and its people as part of a unique autonomy. No Kurds in any world state have been granted such autonomy.

The statement also pointed to the risks posed by the continued unfair blockade imposed on the Iraqi people. This blockade has gravely harmed the Kurds, exactly like other nationalities in Iraq., This harm threatens death as a result of the scarce food and medications in addition to the serious situation the Iraqi Kurds are experiencing due to the ongoing bloody fighting between the symbols of agentry; namely, the Talabani and Barzani groups [words indistinct] tens of Iraqi Kurds everyday.

With regard to the ongoing events in fraternal Yemen, the KDP stressed the need to halt all forms of foreign interference in Yemen's internal affairs. The party described this interference as a grand conspiracy which is targeting Yemen's unity and which is not less heinous than the brutal 30-state aggression on the Iraqi people. The party renewed its support for the just legitimate and constitutional struggle which the fraternal Yemeni people are waging in defense of their national and historic unity against the secessionist and renegade forces.

Mosque Imams Call For Upholding Islamic Faith

JN2406095694 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 18 Jun 94 p 2

[Text] Mosque imams in Baghdad and the governorates have called on Muslims all over the world to uphold the Islamic faith and to close their ranks in order to confront the enemies' rancorous plans, which seek to undermine our Islamic religion and divide Muslims into small states in order to usurp their wealth and national will and dominate their destiny and future.

The imams affirmed in their Friday sermons yesterday that, God willing, victory will be for justice represented by the heroic Iraqi confrontation and steadfastness against the mean aims and interests of the forces of evil, infidelity, deception, and aggression headed by the United States.

The imams praised leader President Saddam Husayn's generous offers that increased the wages of civil servants and low-income people and his orders to oblige grocers to ensure the supply of food for the people and to strike at greedy horders.

The imams prayed to God almighty to preserve Iraq, its people, and struggler leader President Saddam Husayn, to strengthen the march of reconstruction and faith in God and the homeland, and to support the president against his unjust enemies.

Columnist Welcomes Saddam's 'Faith Campaign'

JN2406101294 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 16 Jun 94 p 5

["From the Guidance of Islam" column by Shaykh 'Abd-al-Ghaffar al-'Abbasi: "The Faith Campaign Sought by the Leader Needs Care and Following Up"]

[Excerpts] Religious upbringing is important, because religion is basic to the life of the individual and society. [passage omitted]

The faith campaign [al-hamlah al-imaniyah], whose positive results have been felt by our upright leader President Saddam Husayn, shows the leader president thinks highly of the faith issue, which is represented by the call to follow the teachings of the Holy Koran, not just repeat them. The Koranic courses, which will be held for children in mosques during the Summer holidays, will consist of the true thought which came in the revelation to Prophet Muhammad, may the peace and blessings of God be upon him. The call of faith has come in response to the revelation's aims of bringing up children according to the teachings of the Koran. This call has come at the right time, when the nation is facing the revelation's enemies, the enemies of justice and the people. The leader's ambitions will be achieved by the preachers in the field. The Koranic sessions are only one aspect of bringing up children according to the teachings of the Koran. Therefore, we appeal to guardians to urge their children to respond to this luminous call, which the leader and God's faithful servant Saddam Husayn has adopted and advocated in order to bring up a faithful generation that will love God, the homeland, and the leader through the sublime principles they will learn from the Holy Book they will read. This will prepare them to resist the evils of the enemies. When the young generation is strong by its faith and its struggle for the sake of principles, the enemies will retreat. This is the state we are all struggling for so the plots will backfire on the enemies. As the leader president said: We are gaining the youths in order to guarantee the future. [passage omitted]

Ministry To Offer Copies of Koran

JN2406100194 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 18 Jun 94 p 2

[Text] The Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs has completed the printing of 60,000 copies of the Holy Koran.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Mun'im Ahmad Salih, minister of awqaf and religious affairs, has explained that the new edition is similar to the one which was printed in Germany in 1980 in three sizes.

The minister added that the Holy Book will be of medium size and will be offered to citizens as part of the faith campaign led by the struggler leader Saddam Husayn. He said the ministry will print another 15,000 copies in the next few weeks in the form of sections of the Holy Koran to be used in the mosque religious courses held throughout the country during the summer holidays.

RCC Decrees New Law on Wife's Legal Separation

JN2206164494 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 13 Jun 94 p 6

[Text] The Revolution Command Council has decided to grant the wife of a man who is officially declared missing, the right to separate from her husband after four years.

This came in a law the Council issued amending Personal Status Law No. 188 of 1959. The following is text of the law:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Republic of Iraq,

In the name of the people,

Revolution Command Council Decision No. 62, dated 26 Dhu al- Hijjah 1414 Hegira corresponding to 6 June 1994:

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 1 of Article 42 of the Constitution, the Revolution Command Council decided to issue the following law:

Law No. (8) of 1994:

Law Amending Personal Status Law No. 188 of 1959.

Article 1: The following paragraph shall be added to Article 43 of Personal Status Law No. 188 of 1959 so that it shall become the fourth paragraph of that article:

Fourth: 1. The wife of a man who is officially proven to be missing may apply to the court for a separation from her husband after the lapse of four years since he was discovered to be missing. The court shall ascertain that the husband has continued to be missing in the same way in which he was proven missing and then issue its verdict on separation.

2. Following the issuance of the separation verdict, the wife of the missing husband shall observe 'iddah [the legal period of waiting before a divorced or widowed Muslim woman can remarry under Islamic law] for four months and 10 days.

3. If the missing husband returns, the marriage shall continue unless the wife has already remarried. In this case, the second husband shall be considered as having entered into marriage without true knowledge that the first husband is still living.

Article 2: This law shall be implemented as of the date of its issuance in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, chairman of the Revolution Command Council.

International Church Symposium Meets in Baghdad

Speakers Condemn Embargo

JN1706164694 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 12 Jun 94 p 2

[Report by AL-QADISIYAH correspondent Karim al-Hamadani]

[Text] In the presence of Dr. 'Abd-al-Mun'im Ahmad Salih, minister of awqaf and religious affairs, and under the slogan: "The Church in the Service of Peace and Humanity" a symposium organized by the Church of Iraq, represented by all of its communities, began in Iraq on 11 June. It will continue until 14 June 1994. In his opening speech, Dr. Salih conveyed the greetings of the faithful struggler leader Saddam Husayn and his wishes for the success of the symposium.

Dr. Salih said: We are pleased and honored that Baghdad is hosting your world Christian symposium, which is one of the fruits of religious tolerance and the fraternity of the faithful from the religions that uphold this fraternity, as exemplified by Iraq under the patronage of the faithful struggler leader Saddam Husayn. You will personally experience the care and attention given to the various religious communities in Iraq, the atmosphere of piety that guarantees freedom of worship and performance of religious rituals, and the financial support given to places of worship and their various institutions.

Dr. Salih added: Iraqis are all equal on the basis of faith and monotheism. The leader president said: "The most important achievement, after winning almighty's God pleasure, is the feeling that Iraqis are all equal on the basis of faith and monotheism. Other than that, everyone is free to follow the line and course he and his fathers and forefathers have chosen. Iraqis respect each other's choice, while firmly holding to their faith. Our main role is to preach faith." [passage omitted]

Patriarch Raffaele Bidawid I, head of the Chaldean community in Iraq and the world, delivered a speech in

which he expressed his pleasure at the arrival of world delegations representing the various church councils in the world to participate in the symposium. The patriarch said that for more than three years Iraq has faced an unjust blockade which has led to the death of thousands of infants and pregnant women.

Archbishop Michael Fitzgerald, representative of Pope John II and secretary of the Council of Dialogue Among Religions, delivered a speech in which he expressed his thanks to leader President Saddam Husayn for Iraq's hosting of this world symposium and inviting the Vatican to participate in it. The archbishop said: I am pleased to convey the greetings of His Holiness the Pope John II and his wishes for the success of this symposium as well as his concern for the sufferings of the Iraqi people and his desire for the establishment of peace and justice in the region.

The representative of Pope Shunudah, head of the Coptic Church in Egypt, delivered a speech on behalf of the delegations taking part in the symposium in which he condemned the continuation of the blockade imposed on Iraq and its brave people.

Afterward, Patriarch Mar Adi, head of the Assyrian Community in Iraq, delivered the speech of the preparatory committee for the symposium. He praised the support and care given to the various religious communities in Iraq by leader President Saddam Husayn and his excellency's concern about guaranteeing religious freedom for all communities so hhey can live in peace and harmony. Patriarch Mar Adi said: The continuation of the blockade is an unpardonable crime and a violation of all heavenly values and international laws and norms. [passage omitted]

Urges End of Injustice to Country

JN2406102594 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 15 Jun 94 p 6

[Text] The Church Symposium in the Service of Peace and Humanity has concluded its work. The symposium, which was attended by Dr. 'Abd-al-Mun'im Ahmad Salih, minister of awqaf and religious affairs and several ulema and Muslim and Sabian men of religion, recommended the formation of a standing committee with the task of holding intensive contacts with various religious, civilian, and intellectual circles which can influence political decisionmakers in order to achieve justice and equality among all peoples and countries.

The participants appealed to the United Nations, the Security Council, heads of state, archbishopric councils, and world church councils to exert their utmost effort in order to remove the injustice on the people of Iraq, the cradle of civilization, which has offered a great to the world in the fields of science and art. They also appealed to those in charge of the world news media not to condone the blackout on the injustices and tragedies taking place in Iraq and other countries. They expressed their confidence that the good forces in the world will cooperate with them in restoring the legitimate rights of Iraq and its people and all other countries so peace, security, and wellbeing will prevail.

The symposium, which was organized by the Iraqi Church with all its communities, in coordination with the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs, over the past four days saw discussions on the subjects of peace, freedom, human rights in all fields, banning war, and combatting injustice. The symposium was attended by 50 Christian religious personalities from 20 states, including Iraq, and officially representing the Vatican, the World Council of Churches, and churches and archbishoprics in the world.

Saddam Orders 300-Percent Pay Bonus for Brain Surgeons

JN2106130494 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has ordered that brain and nervous system surgeons be granted monthly allowances equal to 300 percent of their total monthly salaries. This has been announced to the Iraqi News Agency by Health Minister Dr. Umid Midhat Mubarak. He said the leader president has also ordered that brain and nervous system surgical operations conducted at the Health Ministry's hospitals be excluded from the current charge rates. He added that this generous gesture by leader President Saddam Husayn reflects appreciation and support for this scientific specialization, which requires meticulous precision and extreme and distinguished care for brain and nervous system patients. He said that this generous gesture will encourage this specialization, which is an important lifesaving specializations.

Rabin Comments on Peace Process, Labor 'Crisis'

TA2306085594 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Itay Engel and Mikhal Gazit; place not given—live]

[Text] [Engel] We would like to speak with the prime minister on the occasion of the second anniversary of the Rabin government. Good morning, Mr. Yitzhaq Rabin.

[Rabin] Good morning to you and to the listeners.

[Engel] Sir, two years ago you spoke about the need to change the national order of priorities. If not a top priority, at least the most talked about issue at the moment is Syria. You warned yesterday about what might befall us if a peace agreement is not reached with the Syrians. We would like to hear from you this morning about what is happening in reality rather than about what might happen. Do you foresee a development on the Syrian channel in the next few weeks?

[Rabin] I believe the dialogue with Syria will continue. I am sorry, though, that it will continue indirectly, through the Americans, in a bid to reach a direct dialogue. I doubt that the Syrians are currently ready for any other form of contacts, which would be the best way to advance the political process.

[Gazit] Sir, having said that, you uttered very harsh words yesterday about Syria and the possibility of war within a few years if there is no change in the situation. Should we infer from it that the Syrian channel is still stuck and going nowhere?

[Rabin] The problem is not that we want war. We want peace, and in order to attain it, we are prepared to make painful compromises. At the same time, I am sorry to hear that in an address to the Zionist Executive, a Likud leader asserted that the Arab world no longer has a military option. This is an illusion. We had better learn from our bitter experience: Three months before the Six-Day War, nobody thought there would be a war in 1967; two weeks before the Yom Kippur War, nobody thought there would be a war. Those who think a military option no longer exists have no right to apply for the generous U.S. aid and should not put everything into building up the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in order to have a strong army. Although we must first and foremost prevent a war, if it is forced on us, we must win it.

The government's policy, therefore, is to search for any possible way to attain peace from a position of strength and by nurturing Israel's military might, which is a condition for its existence and the security of its population. This is also the condition for peace, because nobody will negotiate with a militarily weak Israel. That is why we act on both levels.

Two years ago today, Labor emerged from the elections to the 13th Knesset as the largest party in Israel. The factions affiliated with it in the Knesset constitute a buffer against the establishment of another government, even if all the right-wing and religious parties were to unite. Moreover, we changed the national order of priorities. We stopped throwing money away on the political settlements in the territories and transferred it to education. The education budget was augmented by an amount unprecedented in the past 15 years, because education is the key to the future of our sons, the future of the young generation, and the future of the State of Israel. We invested in the transportation infrastructure in order to make up for 25 years of neglect. Israel lagged behind every modern country in terms of its transportation infrastructure. Without such an infrastructure, it will be impossible to bring the Negev and the Galilee closer to the center of the country. The problem is not bringing Ari'el closer to the center of Israel, because it is already close geographically. The issue is expanding and developing the Galilee and the Negev.

We fought unemployment. When we assumed power two years ago, the rate of unemployment among Soviet immigrants stood at 29 percent, while in May 1994 it was 14 percent. General unemployment in Israel totaled 11.2 percent two years ago and 8.2 percent in May 1994—a 3-percent decrease. We are almost back to the level that existed prior to the wave of immigration that started in 1989.

[Engel] Sir, is there anything you regret, any disappointing moments in the past two years?

[Rabin] There always are unpleasant moments, but when I look at the general picture, I would say that we scored many achievements. This does not mean that we achieved everything. If there is anything I regret, it is the enormous gap between what has actually been achieved by the government and the way this is being perceived by the people, either through the media or the feeling among various sectors of the population. I think this government will bring about reforms, new approaches, and an organizational restructuring of many spheres of life in Israel.

[Gazit] Sir, you may be reaping the fruit of the I-will-lead government [alluding to Rabin's victory speech in June 1992] in the political sphere, but you are paying a very high price in the domestic arena. Your party is experiencing a very serious crisis. Do you think there is room for reaching any conclusions? Should we expect a more serene and reconciled second half?

[Rabin] I hope so. I am not blaming anybody, except some of our institutions, which worked in a certain way for many years; I am primarily referring to the Histadrut labor federation. By not voting for us as they did in the past, the people seemingly wanted to teach us a very painful lesson. Lessons must be learned from such a blow. It is a pity that instead of everybody learning their lesson, there is bickering. We will learn our lesson and rectify what can be rectified.

[Engel] Your party colleagues talk about an erosion in your standing and a drop in the government's popularity. What is your response to this?

[Rabin] I was given a mandate in the Knesset elections. I have no doubt that the results of the Labor's primaries, which determined that I should lead the list, brought about a result Labor was not able to obtain in 17 years. I will not judge our policy and its implementation according to weekly, monthly, or bimonthly public opinion polls. My criteria is what we will achieve in our term, in our full four years in power, and not the transient moods reflected in public opinion polls. The voters will test us in the next scheduled elections. We will be judged in the next Knesset elections, which will be held as scheduled.

[Engel] Sir, thank you very much for this interview.

[Rabin] Thank you.

Interviewed on Regional, Domestic Issues

TA2406103194 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 24 Jun 94 pp 2, 3

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Nahum Barne'a at Rabin's office in Jerusalem on 23 June]

[Text] [Barne'a] Mr. Prime Minister, will you invite 'Arafat to visit Jerusalem?

[Rabin] Jerusalem should remain united, under Israeli sovereignty, and Israel's capital. I consider this issue to be of primary importance in view of the permanent solution. At the same time, I consider it our primary duty to allow freedom of worship and free access to the Muslim and Christian holy sites. I believe it is impossible to insist on Jerusalem's being united and Israel's capital without allowing free access to the followers of other religions.

If tomorrow al-Qadhdhafi should ask to make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem to pray at the holy sites, I would consider this a positive development.

There is one restriction: the security consideration. Being a Muslim, 'Arafat is entitled to visit Jerusalem, just like any other Muslim. If he wishes to pray, that would be his right. There would be a problem of timing and arrangements, but in principle our reply would be positive. To me, this stems from the commitment undertaken by every Israeli Government, including the current one, to allow free access to the holy sites.

[Barne'a] Are you concerned by the statements Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert has made in this regard?

[Rabin] I am surprised at the Jerusalem mayor, if he is indeed involved in the various things that have been reported. Anyone who says he would prevent a Muslim from praying in Jerusalem—be it al-Qadhdhafi, the Saudi king, President al-Asad, or 'Arafat—is causing damage to Israel. I consider this a Jewish and an Israeli obligation.

[Barne'a] You do not invite Olmert to take part in discussions about Jerusalem.

[Rabin] One discussion—an internal discussion—was held at my place with defense and legal officials, and it was not about the 'Arafat visit. We discussed ways to make sure that what was stipulated in the Gaza and Jericho agreement—that all the bodies connected with the Palestinian Authority are to be located in Gaza or Jericho—is observed and that no authoritative body of the Palestinian Authority is located in Jerusalem.

[Barne'a] Nabil Sha'th's visit here ended with what seemed to him like a humiliation: You did not allow him to visit Jerusalem. Was this done deliberately?

[Rabin] We recommended that on his first visit, he focus more on civilian matters, which today are not running as smoothly as the police and other security forces. We recommended that he not deal with symbolic matters. At the same time, I see no reason to prevent him from visiting Jerusalem, whether for religious reasons or to meet with friends. There was an understanding between him and the deputy chief of staff that the visit not take place at this time. In the future, everything is open.

I believe that the extreme right wing's attempts to portray such visits as casting doubt over Israel's sovereignty over Jerusalem are a grave mistake. In doing so, the right is in fact showing that it is nervous and uncertain that we are indeed sovereign in Jerusalem. We are both the majority and sovereign. As Jews, we should treat others as we expect to be treated in places where we are not sovereign.

[Barne'a] The Israeli right is active with regard to the Golan Heights issue as well. As you well know, Israel is currently engaged in a struggle in Washington against the presentation of an amendment at the U.S. Senate that would ban the administration from sending U.S. troops to the Golan.

[Rabin] I believe this is simply silly. This is a twisted misrepresentation of the facts by the Israeli and U.S. Jewish right wing. The man who thought up the idea of placing a U.S. force here was Menahem Begin, and I want to give him credit for this. The attempt to intimidate the American people by drawing a similarity between Somalia or Vietnam and supervising the implementation of military clauses in a peace treaty is stupid. Their hatred for the government, their wish to place obstacles on the way to peace, has driven the extreme right mad.

[Barne'a] Are we on the verge of launching secret talks with Syria?

[Rabin] Unfortunately, not yet. The Syrian attitude is wrong. They are conducting the negotiations under the assumption that the United States should deliver Israel

to them and bring about the signing of a peace agreement on Syrian terms. This is not the United States' intention; neither is it conceivable that we would agree to this.

I believe that Warren Christopher will pay another visit in July. I hope the Syrians will come to their senses and realize that the time has come for a direct dialogue.

[Barne'a] Have you and Peres agreed that he will take over the negotiations with the Syrians?

[Rabin] The negotiations will continue in their current form. It is only natural for the foreign minister to be a full partner. He is doing his job as foreign minister.

[Barne'a] On 19 June, after the stormy meeting in Bet Berl [in which Rabin and Labor Central Committee members exchanged accusations over the failure in the Histadrut elections], you held a secret, lengthy, late night meeting with Peres. Can you say that nothing has changed in Peres' status after the meeting?

[Rabin] I will not comment on private meetings. I will not go into details.

[Barne'a] But you are not denying that something has changed?

[Rabin] We mainly discussed the current situation in the party as well as in the country. We hold private meetings frequently. It is quite natural.

[Barne'a] These meetings are always required when one of you returns from abroad....

[Rabin] You said that.

[Barne'a] King Husayn met with President Clinton on 22 June. It seems that the meetings follow a pattern: Husayn says he wants peace very much, and then, when the President utters a kind word, everything vanishes.

[Rabin] We have reached an agreement with Jordan that the talks between us will be moved from Washington to our region. This is in line with our concept that it is better to hold separate, bilateral talks and not talk to all the partners at the same time. The location of the talks has not been determined yet.

It is clear to me that Syria does not view the progress with Jordan positively. I even heard that Syria complained to the Americans that they lent a hand to breaking the joint framework.

[Barne'a] Does Husayn want to start with an agreement on borders?

[Rabin] There will be no peace if the borderline is not determined. This will come in addition to normalization, the establishment of ties, security arrangements, and so on. The problem with Jordan is relatively less complex. We will start by discussing everything; we will conclude nothing before we attain a peace treaty.

[Barne'a] After he met with you on 21 June, Hayim Haberfeld, the Histadrut labor federation secretary general, looked very happy. This seems a bit odd after you called on him on 19 June to draw the necessary conclusions and go home.

[Rabin] We suffered a blow in the Histadrut elections. There is no point in hiding it. We decided to accept the voters' verdict. Ramon and his list will head the Histadrut. We want to be their partners, not their tail end. The Histadrut conference will be held on 5 July. Ramon will be elected secretary general on the same or the following day.

[Barne'a] Ramon says he cannot work with Haberfeld. Can you understand this?

[Rabin] I do not accept disqualifying people on a personal basis. I believe that Ramon's demand, anchored in such disqualification, is out of place. I am familiar with many historical examples of politicians who said they could not work together. In a democracy, one has to accept the majority's decision, but the man who came in second should also learn how to live with the results. Rivalries may exist before elections take place. After they are held, conclusions must be drawn.

[Barne'a] Were you Ramon, would you go hand in hand with Haberfeld?

[Rabin] If you look for love, do not turn to politics to find it.

[Barne'a] A recently published poll shows Ramon is more popular than you are. What do you think about this?

[Rabin] The Knesset elections were held exactly two years ago. I believe that the fact that I headed the list contributed to our victory. I also believe that we are fulfilling that which the government pledged in its guidelines. I want the public to judge me at the end of my four-year term. I am not affected by last week's or last month's polls. We have two more years. The yardstick by which to measure my success will be the government's achievements.

[Barne'a] Will you run again in 1996?

[Rabin] Presently, I am busy with implementing government policy. You may take your guesses as to what I will do in two years, but I will not make the announcement today. It would not be good for Labor.

[Barne'a] Sarid and Ramon said they will run for the premiership in 1996 only if you do not. Are you pleased with such statements?

[Rabin] I do not concern myself with such statements at this time. We are halfway through our term.

[Barne'a] You said that 1994 will be the year of peace. It does not seem like you will sign another agreement in 1994.

[Rabin] I believe that the implementation of the Gaza and Jericho agreement creates a good atmosphere for peace. It would be a positive thing if the process with Jordan developed, and I still see a chance for a dialogue with Syria. On our part, we will work to reach a breakthrough this year, and if not in 1994, then in 1995.

[Barne'a] That would be the year before the elections.

[Rabin] I do not believe the elections will make a difference.

[Barne'a] Hayim Ramon believes that parties are disappearing, that today a leader does not need a party to reach the voters. Do you also feel that Israel's party system has become superfluous?

[Rabin] Whether we will legislate direct elections or continue to vote according to the old system, today in Israel the vote is cast for the "who" as well as the "what." The "what" is expressed by the party. I do not believe the era of parties is over. I believe there is room for adjustments. Today, the media is the people's main source of information. You reach more people through it than through any party conference. At the same time, parties are needed; a nucleus of men is needed.

[Barne'a] Then why do you hate them so much?

[Rabin] I never said I hate them.

[Barne'a] It was very interesting to watch you at the party Central Committee meeting on 19 June. Whenever you see the committee members, something burns inside you, does it not?

[Rabin] Not true. I believe the time has come to build these institutions in a different manner. For example, I am not sure that primaries should apply in all cases. Those directly elected by the public—a prime minister, a city mayor—should be elected through primaries. The situation of Knesset members, however, who are not directly elected, is different. They are not elected directly at this time. To a large extent, they are elected thanks to the man who heads the list. There is room to examine canceling primaries for Knesset members.

[Barne'a] A lot has been said about your style, about the expressions you use. On the other hand, many on the street like it. Is it calculated?

[Rabin] As prime minister I am the target for expressions of support and a primary target of attacks. If you do not understand this, do not be a prime minister. I say what I think. Sometimes, I want to make a point by using harsh terms.

[Barne'a] Is it deliberate?

[Rabin] Certainly.

[Barne'a] Speaking on 19 June, were you absolutely cool?

[Rabin] It was calculated. I was convinced that committee members, many of whom work for the Histadrut, feel that their source of income is being threatened. This is a humanitarian problem, and I hope we will find a solution for it. At the same time, contrary to what they shouted there, I do not believe that the government governs while the Histadrut serves as its soul. With all due respect for the Histadrut, the soul is the state, the future of the people of Israel. I had to put things in proportion.

[Barne'a] Do you plan to replace ministers in your government, what is called a political reshuffle?

[Rabin] I do not reshuffle. You must remember that most of the ministers were not ministers in the past. There are stages for assuming a post. I believe it is my duty to back them up. Let each go on in his field and stand corrected if necessary. This is not a mutual admiration society.

[Barne'a] You seem more comfortable with men in uniform, whom you have deeply involved in the negotiations.

[Rabin] My decision to bring in IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers was based on essential needs. First priority was given to personal security. This entailed dealing with the details. I saw it vital for those who are tasked with implementing the agreement to be involved with its fine details. They did not make the political decisions. I was attacked for not involving military men in the secret negotiations in Oslo, and at the same time the opposite charge was leveled at me. I believe my decision was correct.

The chief of staff, his deputy and the regional command commanders performed excellently. I am happy that IDF soldiers no longer cruise Gaza. There was a drop in the number of riots and terror attacks in Gaza, for now. In Judaea and Samaria, where we are in control, the drop was very slight.

[Barne'a] Are you concerned with regard to the expected 26 June publication of the report by the mission of inquiry into the Hebron massacre?

[Rabin] I am sure we will receive no compliments. An appalling incident took place: A loathsome Jewish murderer shot worshipers in the back in a holy place. There is no doubt that law enforcement on extremist Jews in the territories or those who joined them was far from being perfect.

[Barne'a] Did the establishment you are heading draw lessons from the incident?

[Rabin] Not enough. The problem is more complex. I saw the negative reactions to my decision to place several Jewish extremists under administrative detention. Even the Human Rights Association was opposed. I could at the same time place hundreds of Palestinians or more under administrative detention and no one would have said a word.

Large segments of the public have cultivated a forgiving attitude toward the extreme right in the territories. Our judiciary has also not treated them with the utmost severity stipulated by law, and not quickly enough. There are cases that have not come to trial for three to four years. The entire method of law enforcement on Jews in the territories requires a thorough reexamination.

[Barne'a] Do you watch the world soccer championship games?

[Rabin] Yes, when I get home from work at night.

[Barne'a] What did you see so far?

[Rabin] Naturally, I saw the opening game. I saw the Bulgaria-Nigeria and Switzerland-Romania games. I could not always find the time to see all the games. I enjoy it very much. This is how I enjoy myself and rejuvenate from not always pleasurable things.

Rabin, Peres on Possibility of Progress With Syria

TA2306170194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin hopes that the Syrians will understand that if one seeks to promote the peace negotiations, there is almost no recourse but to open direct talks with Israeli leaders. However, as long as they continued to refuse to do so, Israel must use the good services of the United States.

The prime minister added he hoped that the secretary of state would visit the region in the middle of July. We must be convinced that we have done absolutely all we could to make progress and exhaust every opportunity to make peace with Syria, Yitzhaq Rabin said, noting however that such efforts should not be made under any conditions nor at any price. The prime minister was speaking at a ceremony at the president's residence.

Reacting to the criticism that was leveled against the statements he made yesterday regarding an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, the prime minister asserted that those who failed to keep even one thousandth of the Sinai Peninsula in exchange for peace had no right to put on an angry face and brazenly state that one could achieve peace in exchange for peace. That was total nonsense, Rabin said.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 23 June in a similar report adds that "Israel was to a large extent responsible whether the Middle East would move in the direction of peace and calm or toward violence and war. As for the proposals delivered to the Syrians, Rabin said that they pertained to the bilateral nature of the relations between the two countries. In the meantime, however, the gap between the parties' positions remained the same."]

Foreign Minister Peres said that if the Syrians open the negotiations to meetings at higher levels and on additional tracks, then significant progress could be made. The foreign minister was speaking at a meeting with EU ambassadors in Israel. As for the agreement with the Palestinians, Peres said that its implementation was going smoothly and the Palestinians were organizing themselves in the field from all aspects. The foreign minister noted that Israel was preparing itself for the implementation of the second stage of the agreements.

Rabin Said To Meet Palestinian Officials 27 Jun

TA2306181294 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] According to Palestinian sources, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will meet with high-ranking Palestinian figures, 27 June. These figures include Dr. Nabil Sha'th, responsible for planning in the Palestinian Authority, and Faysal al-Husayni, a member of the Authority. The prime minister's meeting with these figures comes before the beginning of talks slated for next week between Israel and the PLO on the transfer of self-rule powers in the West Bank.

PLO Said To Demand IDF Withdrawal From W. Bank Cities

TA2406100894 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 24 Jun 94 pp 1, 11

[Report by Ron Ben-Yishay]

[Excerpts] PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat is insisting that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdraw from major Judaea and Samaria population centers in the near future, even before autonomy is applied to these areas.

The demand, which was officially relayed to the prime minister's bureau about two weeks ago, is based on what Palestinian sources term "an oral understanding and the spirit of the Oslo agreement."

A senior government element has confirmed that the PLO did indeed present such a demand to Israel, although he denied that "either an oral or written pledge was given to 'Arafat on this matter."

Senior IDF commanders advised the prime minister to reject the demand on the grounds that the IDF troops' exit from major Judaea and Samaria cities before comprehensive security arrangements for Palestinian self-rule are established would jeopardize the lives of Israeli civilians. Those in danger will be mainly residents of settlements in the vicinity of Ramallah, Nabulus, Hebron, Qalqilyah, and Tulkarm, some of whom have to drive through these cities' centers on their way to the settlements.

'Arafat relayed this new demand to Jerusalem via his adviser Nabil Sha'th, who handed it to Major General Amnon Shahaq during a meeting at Erez checkpoint last week. [passage omitted]

Palestinian sources claim that a high-ranking Israeli element, whose identity they refused to disclose, promised 'Arafat that rather than wait for sweeping redeployment in the West Bank on the eve of the autonomy council elections, the IDF would withdraw from city centers shortly after the completion of the evacuation from Gaza and the Jericho enclave. 'Arafat is now demanding that the IDF evacuate the centers of major cities and hand over control in the evacuated areas to the Palestinian police force in the framework of the next stage of the establishment of Palestinian self-rule—the stage of early empowerment, during which the Civil Administration's powers in the territories are to be handed over to the PLO, as agreed in Oslo.

Senior defense establishment elements recently advised the prime minister not to hurry to implement the next stages stipulated in the Oslo Declaration of Principles before he is certain the Palestinians have adhered to their Cairo agreement commitments with regard to Gaza and Jericho. That was the reason they recommended he reject 'Arafat's demand for early IDF withdrawal from city centers. [passage omitted]

Defense establishment elements also recommended that the IDF redeployment be put off until negotiations on comprehensive security arrangements in the Palestinian self-rule in Judaea and Samaria are completed. The IDF also has reservations about the early transfer of Civil Administration powers to the Palestinians. Senior elements argue that early empowerment will only create confusion and undesirable friction between the still active Civil Administration and the Palestinian authorities due to take over from the Civil Administration.

Al-Nashashibi Foresees Husayn-Rabin Meeting

TA2306182594 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Report on interview with Nasir-al-Din al-Nashashibi, "King Husayn's adviser," by Arab affairs correspondent Avraham Barne'a at al-Nashashibi's East Jerusalem home on 23 June—Al-Nashashibi's remarks in English]

[Text] A meeting between King Husayn and Prime Minister Rabin may take place much before October. This remark was made today by Nasir-al-Din al-Nashashibi, a close adviser to King Husayn in the West Bank. The senior Jordanian journalist, Sultan al-Hattab, who was in Israel last week and met Rabin and Peres, was sent here by Jordan's prime minister and stayed in al-Nashashibi's East Jerusalem home. Speaking with our Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a today, al-Nashashibi explained what lies behind the recent moves by the king:

[Begin recording] [Al-Nashashibi] When Jordan found that Syria has not moved enough towards peace—and under certain pressure from the United States and from the world opinion on Jordan to act for peace, and under certain pressure, financial and economic pressure, also pressure from the army side for more new arms—so, these things made Jordan fasten [as heard] its steps towards peace.

[Barne'a] Nasir-al-Din al-Nashashibi, today a close adviser to King Husayn, served as an adviser to the king's grandfather, King 'Abdallah, just as he was an adviser to Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, King Fahd, and other Arab leaders. Today, he believes, Husayn is past the stage of being angry over being left out of the picture, and decided to take the initiative and lead, as did his grandfather.

[Al-Nashashibi] He has been always a man who leads. And, as I said, since 1948, his grandfather was a man of peace. He paid his life as a price for that peace, and the king is aware of this.

[Barne'a, in English] Are we to witness very soon a meeting between the king, or high Jordanian officials, and high Israeli officials?

[Al-Nashashibi] I think the king has no complexes. He will... [pauses] I heard yesterday that a future planned public meeting would take place in October. I doubt it. It will take place before—if the king feels that the bell is ringing across the river and there are certain good, just, comprehensive offers that he can transfer into concrete peace agreement. [end recording]

Territories Coordinator on State of Autonomy's Economy

TA2106143594 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Jun 94 p A4

[Report by Gabi Zohar]

[Text] The way the Palestinian police has managed to take control over security in the Gaza Strip and Jericho is "not bad," but the civilian institutions are still at the beginning of being formed. This was stated yesterday by Major General Dani Rothschild, coordinator of government activities in the territories, at a seminary on the political economy of peace in the Middle East, held at Haifa University yesterday.

Rothschild explained that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad are not interested in holding a dialogue with Israel. "At best, they consider taking part in the Palestinian establishment, but they are opposed to the peace process.

"Should they become part of the Palestinian autonomy, this will not happen as part of a democratic process in which a society votes and makes democratic decisions. This could lead to problems, if Hamas wins a majority in the Palestinian autonomy. Israel is trying to help with a money-equivalent and today employs 25,000 Palestinians from the autonomy. Work in Israel is not granted automatically—it is a consequence of the security situation and economic needs.

"The number of Palestinian laborers permitted to work in Israel is occasionally considered with regard to these two criteria. If in the future we will see that the Palestinian police and security forces are managing to take control over the self-government regions and keep them quiet, we will further increase the number of Palestinian laborers in Israel." Gen. Rothschild noted that the standard of living in Gaza and Jericho has deteriorated since Israel pulled out from there. Nevertheless, it will take a few months before these things can be statistically examined.

"At the same time, I am optimistic and I do not believe that a financial or economic problem can foil the agreement. It seems to me that the Palestinian Autonomy is stable enough to improve its situation even if the process takes a month or two. There will be cause for concern if the Palestinian establishment does not show the residents that their standard of living is improving. There will be no vacuum in this place. If the situation does not improve, Islamic forces that oppose the peace process will step in.

Gen. Rothschild estimated that the economic situation will improve in Gaza and Jericho within the coming two weeks, after the donor countries last week agreed to transfer $42 million to the autonomy. Contacts between the Palestinian body, set up to coordinate the transfer of money from the EU, and the European donor countries will continue next month. The money that will arrive in two weeks will provide for immediate needs, and the funds that will arrive later are earmarked for various projects.

"The Palestinian self-government authorities should make a list of priorities for the donors. You cannot pay for the construction of houses before an infrastructure and a sewage system is built, and the donor countries do not know that," Rothschild said. He added: "One of the donor countries' foreign ministers told me recently: We will provide for 5,000 houses. When I asked him: what about schools and infrastructure? he said: 'It is their problem.'"

Referring to the Palestinian aspiration to cut themselves off from Israeli aid at once, Rothschild said that they will have to choose which is more important to them: national pride or economic needs. The idea to construct a power station on a ship at sea only because they do not want to receive electric power from Israel is economically wrong.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 21 June reports that "Major General Dani Rothschild, the coordinator of government activities in the territories, said that Israeli companies tried to take over Palestinian businesses by flooding the territories with goods. That is why the Palestinians seek to cut themselves off from the Israeli economy. At the same time, Rothschild made the assessment that despite all the talk about separation from Israel by politicians in the territories, Palestinian businessmen and economists would prefer ties with the Israeli economy rather than with Jordan. The coordinator warned that if the Palestinian authorities did not rapidly improve the standard of living in the autonomous areas, the PLO may lose control of the streets to radical elements. Israel, therefore, must do all in its power to help the PLO."]

Baraq on Terrorism, Significance of Territories

TA2206170294 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Over the last four months there has been a sharp drop in the number of attacks and disturbances in the Gaza Strip, Judaea, and Samaria. This was said today by Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq to the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Lieutenant General Baraq is not convinced that the present situation will continue over the long term. He says we must prepare for the possibility that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the rejectionist organizations will increase their activity. Our correspondent Tamar Asalem reports from the Knesset:

[Begin recording] [Asalem] The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee was today presented with figures pointing to a decrease in the number of attacks in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, as well as inside the Green Line. During April, 108 attacks were registered in Judaea and Samaria, compared to 78 in May, and 47 in June. The respective figures for the Gaza Strip were 120 in April, 48 in May, and 10 in June. In the Green Line there were 38 attacks in April, 15 in May, and 5 in June. The chief of staff noted this is a significant drop in the level of terrorism. He added, however, that we cannot rule out a possibility of an increase in the number of attacks in Judaea and Samaria, excluding Jericho.

[Baraq] I would not build on this decrease over the long term. I sincerely hope this situation continues to prevail in Gaza and Jericho. We must prepare for the possibility, however, that I will be proven wrong and that Hamas and the rejectionist organizations will try to increase their activity in Judaea and Samaria or inside Israel.

[Asalem] Regarding Hamas activity, the chief of staff added his impression—which is based on the Palestinian impression—that Hamas influence in Gaza and Jericho is waning. Perhaps this is related to Israel's withdrawal from those areas. The Palestinian police have also played a part in this development. Baraq added, however, that activity in the mosques continues as usual.

Asked about extending the autonomy area in future, Baraq said the issue is still far off on the agreement's agenda. Baraq said that Israel's security interest in Judaea and Samaria goes beyond safeguarding the settlers and has to do with deployment for the event of a war on the eastern front.

Lt. Gen. Baraq also spoke about the situation in south Lebanon, saying that Israel is doing everything possible to make life difficult for Hizballah by dictating terms for it.

[Baraq] Over the recent past, since the abduction of al-Dirani, the Air Force attack, and other successful operations, Hizballah has suffered a series of severe setbacks and lost dozens of its fighters, with many dozens being wounded. Obviously they continue to seek for ways of retaliation. Yesterday they attacked us successfully from their point of view, and painfully from ours. We will have to do everything possible to prevent the recurrence of such attacks. At the same time we must realize that the struggle in the security zone will continue.

[Asalem] The chief of staff was asked whether Syrian involvement in south Lebanon is growing deeper. His answer was negative, but he added that in his opinion Syria is pleased with every successful Hizballah attack against Israel. [end recording]

Peres on Support for U.S. Actions in N. Korea

TA2306140294 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 23 Jun 94 p 2

[Report by Knesset correspondent Yona Kohen]

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres confirmed in the Knesset there is room for concern regarding the events in North Korea, which is dodging international supervision.

Addressing the Knesset plenum, Peres emphasized the need of implementing international political steps regarding this issue. Peres said the world is changing its shape from a world of enemies to a world of dangers. The lethal combination of missiles and nuclear weapons has changed the issues of borders, defenses, and settlements; it is doubtful whether there is any way to prevent the missile danger. Peres said that our defense system must meet the magnitude of the missile and nuclear weapons danger.

Peres added that political agreements can prevent the nuclear danger. The foreign minister hopes an international coalition will be formed against the countries harboring missiles and nuclear arms. North Korea is presently playing a "cat and mouse game." The United States is heading the countries confronting the North Korean threat. Peres said that the United States is determined to prevent the danger, adding that Israel will support whatever action it takes in this issue.

Clinton's 'Pathetic Maneuvers' Against Korea Seen

TA2306120194 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Jun 94 p B1

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar: "Longing for Carter"]

[Text] It looks as though speaking untruthfully or—to put it more bluntly—lying has become a plague among politicians. This phenomenon has spread far beyond Israel and has also affected the U.S. secretary of state and President. Before his meeting with King Husayn, Warren Christopher came up with an excellent explanation for delaying his Middle East visit: He could not have postponed his visit as he never planned to visit the region in June to begin with.

If the secretary of state was telling the truth, it must be stated that all his peace advisers intentionally misled the Israeli Embassy in Washington. Even worse, is it conceivable that a politician who has committed himself to energetic mediation between Israel and Syria should take such a long break without planning his next trip to these countries?

Some maintained that the eminent politician was forced to delay his trip to our region at the last moment because of the North Korean crisis. President Clinton said that Jimmy Carter visited Pyongyang as a tourist rather than as an official White House emissary. A day later, the former president said on television, however, that he routinely discusses sensitive issues, such as the invitation to visit North Korea, with the President. In fact, when President Bush asked Carter not to go there, he acquiesced, so it stands to reason that had Clinton asked nicely, the former Democratic president would not have turned him down.

Whom are we to believe: Carter, who promised Kim Il-song and CNN that the sanctions have been frozen; or Clinton, who announced that the diplomatic effort to consolidate the sanctions will continue until President Kim translates his words into action?

Meanwhile, Kim has won several more weeks to smuggle additional quantities of fuel waste for implementing his plan of turning North Korea into a nuclear bomb supermarket. Last month, Clinton warned that destroying any evidence regarding the removal of fuel from the reactor would destroy all chances of opening a third round of talks between the United States and North Korea. The evidence was destroyed, and Western intelligence can only guess the number of nuclear bombs hidden in the cellars of one of the most dangerous regimes in the world.

Now, after Carter has returned triumphantly from the Korean peninsula, Clinton is talking about encouraging signs and hope for a new beginning in relations with North Korea. The tension regarding the sanctions has evaporated, and Clinton found the time to deal with his health reform and the Whitewater and Paula Jones affairs.

Washington policymakers have been busy explaining that the only superpower in the world cannot be expected to solve all the world's problems. Strategists carefully explicated the nature of regional-ethnic conflicts, such as those in Bosnia, Somalia, Haiti, and Rwanda. Regretting the bloodshed in all these places, they nevertheless

maintain that the United States must conserve its strength for the real tests, such as threats to world peace. It so happens, however, that precisely during this trial period—and what is more dangerous than the proliferation of nuclear weapons among mad leaders and extremist regimes—this U.S. Administration is being exposed in all its weakness.

It started with the difficulties in getting Japanese and Chinese support for the sanctions against North Korea after Kim mocked the United States and the International Atomic Energy Agency. After securing most favored nation status, Beijing threatened to veto sanctions against its communist neighbor. Japan announced it is bound by law to exhaust all diplomatic efforts. Even in South Korea, there is a growing opposition to escalation with the north.

The alliance with the United States has always been one of Israel's most important strategic assets. An ally with the prestige of a paper tiger, however, does not contribute anything to its security. The Jordanian newspaper AL-RA'Y, for example, wrote this week that "North Korea has proven that a proud country can challenge the United States. Rational neighbors such as Beijing, Seoul, and Tokyo can curb U.S. arrogance." If this is what the wimps in Amman are saying, what do people in Baghdad, Tehran, and Tripoli think?

The entire world is following Clinton's pathetic maneuvers on the North Korean track. The loss of control over its nuclear armament efforts and the unsuccessful attempt to implement effective sanctions could harm the embargo against Israel's most dangerous enemies.

It is to be hoped that Hafiz al-Asad will not question the reasons for continuing to pin his hopes on these people. Incidentally, during the Reagan administration's tenure, Jimmy Carter brought a message to Rabin from Damascus regarding al-Asad's desire for an arrangement. Rabin, who was defense minister at the time, shrugged off Carter's initiative.

If it nevertheless transpires that Carter has managed to move Kim, it is advisable to send him instead of Christopher on the "unplanned" visit to Damascus. Even Carter, however, will find it hard to have an impact there.

Peres Interviewed on Labor Party 'Crisis'

TA2306164794 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Jun 94 p B3

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Lili Galili and Amnon Barzilay at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem on 22 June]

[Excerpt] In his office yesterday, in the midst of the storm rocking his party and as expectations for far-reaching political developments are on the rise, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres seemed surprisingly calm. To a certain extent, he looked like someone forcing himself to display calm out of tactical considerations in order to signal that everything was "business as usual." His serenity was abruptly ruffled when he was asked to reply to questions implying the possibility of a future leadership struggle between Yitzhaq Rabin and himself or when his replies were interpreted in such a fashion.

"Why should I engage in gossip," Peres angrily retorted, "I am sick of justifying my actions all the time. I want to talk about the really important things." Nevertheless, Peres definitely sounded as if he wanted to keep his political options open. Even if he does not ultimately make use of these options, they will maintain the Labor party's internal balance of terror and preclude any possibility of treating Peres like a dead horse who no longer has to be appeased.

Peres rejected the reports about various "deals" between him and Rabin to buy quiet in the party with disgust. His reaction: "What are we, horse traders?" The foreign minister made these angry remarks on the day newspapers were carrying reports of Yosi Beilin's imminent appointment as a cabinet minister, describing him as "Peres' minister" and explaining that the appointment came as a counterbalance to the recent appointment of a "Rabin minister," Efrayim Sne, to the health portfolio. Perhaps not horse trading, but definitely minister trading.

Peres rejected this description: "Without a doubt, in a democracy there are counterbalances. I am not interpreting developments, but merely stating facts. It is for the prime minister to announce ministerial appointments. I do not want to engage in gossip."

[HA'ARETZ] Your party is in the midst of a serious crisis that could even lead to a split. In the past, with the establishment of RAFI [Israel Laborers List, in 1965], you were part of a large split in the Labor party.

[Peres] I was not part of a large split, I was party to the actions of a great man. When I faced the decision of either splitting from the party or splitting away from the man, I chose to follow David Ben-Gurion, and I do not regret it. The situation today is totally different. The party did not hold primaries then.

[HA'ARETZ] So the primaries are the root of all evil, not the mistakes made with regard to the national health insurance bill?

[Peres] Everything that is happening in the party now is the result of the primaries system. As for the national health insurance bill, a mistake may indeed have been made; however, that is not the real reason for the crisis in the party. What is actually happening is that the Knesset members [MK's] seek popularity through newspaper headlines. If we do not completely remedy this situation, these will continue to be the results.

[HA'ARETZ] What do you mean by completely remedy the situation?

[Peres] We have to divide the country into election boroughs, and then the MK's will be elected by the residents of a specific borough, as they are in Britain. Democracy is based on representation and constituencies. There is no point in having elections based on constituencies without the country being really divided into election boroughs. The Knesset should pass a bill on changing the electoral system. It is inconceivable that only the prime minister will be elected in real democratic elections while the MK's will continue to be elected through a sham process.

[HA'ARETZ] The practical ramifications of the change you are proposing are a delay in the implementation of direct elections for prime minister. Your statements imply that you are making your support for direct elections for prime minister conditional on changes in the regional election system.

[Peres] I think that this condition could be implemented within the 30 months we have at our disposal. There is no reason why these two electoral changes cannot be passed simultaneously, and I will fight for this. Then we will be able to reorganize the party and restore a logical order to political life. Do not try to impose your terminology on me. I prefer to make positive statements. Why should I put things negatively?

[HA'ARETZ] Perhaps you choose positive descriptions because your fear that the use of other language would be construed as the resumption of your leadership struggle with Yitzhaq Rabin?

[Peres] If I state something that I believe in, does that mean I am announcing my candidacy? There are still another two years. I have already made a decision regarding this election term and I will respect it for another two years. I do not know what will happen in another two years. I will decide at the appropriate time.

[HA'ARETZ] Do you not fear that, on top of everything else, the public will see the Labor party as an oligarchy of old men?

[Peres] I do not accept that. We have done great things over the last two years. Israel has undergone a fundamental change. If old people are capable of effecting this, then why not? Do not look at peoples' age, look at the results.

[HA'ARETZ] Right now, the results are internal chaos, and the members of the Ramon-Meretz Histadrut labor federation list are now demanding the dismissal of Hayim Haberfeld [outgoing Histadrut secretary general]. What is your reaction to this demand?

[Peres] The Labor party will not ostracize anyone.

[HA'ARETZ] Can you, as someone who in the past was himself considered a liability by the party, identify with Haberfeld?

[Peres] Some people considered me a liability, while some people viewed me as an asset. I do not subscribe to this simplistic descriptions. Anyone who reviews my record in the party cannot see me as a liability. [passage omitted]

Labor Party Crisis, Peres-Rabin Conflict Viewed

TA1906120494 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Jun 94 p A3

[Report by party affairs correspondent Yerah Tal]

[Excerpts] Knesset Members [MK] Avraham Burg and Rafi Elul are initiating a move to abolish the law for direct election of prime minister, or at least to postpone its implementation. This initiative is backed by many of the Labor's dovish members of the Kefar Hayaroq and Mashov circles, who last Thursday set up a joint front to promote the it.

MK Burg said that this week he will present the Knesset with an offer to amend the law. The amendment states that the implementation of the law will be postponed until after all the basic laws have been incorporated into a state constitution. In the congregation last Thursday, MK Burg called for a "democratic jihad" against the direct election law. He warned against "a severe harm to Israel's democratic regime and civil rights if the law is implemented before all the basic laws—designed to secure the civil rights of Israel's citizens—are passed."

Also, MK Elul intends to propose that one-third of the Knesset members be elected through regional elections for individual candidates.

Most of those supporting the Burg-Elul initiative belong to the "Peres camp" in Labor. It is therefore believed that Peres is behind the initiative. Party members have also expressed fear that Rabin might view this initiative as a plot to unseat him and reignite the confrontation between him and Peres.

Some of Rabin's associates maintain that Peres "is behind the revolt by Labor secretaries of local labor councils," aimed at weakening Rabin. At the same time, Peres' associates are accusing Rabin of "selling his soul to Ramon, and not minding to sell the party to Ramon as well."

[In the same issue of HA'ARETZ, pages A1 and A10, a 800-word report by Yerah Tal and Gid'on Alon on the negotiations for the establishment of the Histadrut labor federation coalition adds that "Labor sources have said that Rabin's functioning as party chairman is one of the reasons for the expanding crisis in the negotiations between Labor and Ram, Hayim Ramon's list." "Senior Labor members of the negotiating team charged that Rabin is to blame for legitimizing moves by Ramon's men to set up a coalition with Likud members in the Histadrut and in local labor councils." The report adds that "the gloomy mood in Labor is also the result of the difficulties in expanding the government coalition in the wake of the deadlocked negotiations with SHAS, the Torah Observing Sephardim."]

Tension between Rabin and Peres has been rising recently in view of this situation. A senior Labor source said over the weekend that Peres was offended when Rabin rejected his request to head the negotiating team with Syria for several months in order to bring about a breakthrough on this track. "Peres is frustrated these days. The agreement with Jordan is, in fact, completed; the process with the Palestinians is rolling; and the Syrian track is sealed off to Peres. Hence his bitter feeling toward Rabin," the Labor source said. He added that he expects the open conflict between the two to resume soon. [passage omitted]

Another idea raised recently is an offer by MK Dalya Itzik to amend the party constitution so that a Labor prime minister could not also serve as party chairman, and for the two roles to be absolutely separate. MK Itzik believes that the amendment will not be applicable in the next Knesset elections. Therefore she intends to appeal to Rabin and the party institutions to appoint an emergency leadership for the party. This leadership will have to mend the rifts in the party and prepare it for the 1996 elections.

MK Itzik suggests that Rabin delegate some of his authority as party chairman to three senior party members who will run party affairs with him until the elections, and attempt to rehabilitate it. The evident candidate for the role of party chairman is Shim'on Peres, but Itzik avoids suggesting this for fear of being charged of having considerations associated with party camps. This is the reason she is suggesting that Rabin delegate authority to three people, not just one. This is also called for in view of the expected difficulties in electing one person acceptable to all. [passage omitted]

The crisis in Labor yielded yet another debate regarding internal elections. Many party members are demanding that the primary system be abrogated, viewing it as the root of all that is evil in the party. MK Gedalya Gal opposes the system, claiming that "it leads to the phenomenon of rebellion we are witnessing in the party today." MK's Burg and Hagay Merom, on the other hand, suggest that the party hold open primaries. [passage omitted]

Likud-Labor Forum Debates Security, Peace

TA1906134394 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Jun 94 p A5

[Report by party affairs correspondent Yerah Tal]

[Text] Likud Knesset Member [MK] Dan Meridor does not rule out the possibility of a territorial compromise if Israel's security is assured. This was reported by several people who attended a meeting of the "Kefar Vitkin group," the joint forum of Likud and Labor MK's on 17 June. The same sources also claimed that Likud MK's at the meeting expressed no opposition to the relocation of settlements and their concentration in large settlement blocs.

The Kefar Vitkin group reconvened at MK Mikha'el Eytan's house in Kokhav Ya'ir on 17 June. The Labor MK's who participated in the meeting were Gedalya Gal, Ori Or, Eli Goldschmidt, and Rafi Elul, who recently joined the forum in the place of Efrayim Sne who resigned after being appointed health minister. The fifth Labor MK in the forum, Deputy Education Minister Mikha Goldman, was abroad and therefore absent from the 17 June meeting. The Likud was represented by MK's Dan Meridor, Mikha'el Eytan, David Magen, Avraham Herschson, and 'Ovadya Eli.

The forum continued a discussion that started at their first meeting two weeks ago, at Gedalya Gal's home in Kefar Vitkin. The debate focused on the definition of the security requirements Israel must insist upon when signing political agreements.

Although the participants agreed to maintain secrecy, some details of the discussion have been learned. MK Ori Or, the chairman of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, asserted that progress on the Palestinian track must be expedited. He noted the need to hold elections expeditiously in the territories, even at the expense of movement on the Syrian track.

Or said that there should be no rush to reach an agreement with Syria. The government should not feel under pressure and try to reach an agreement with the Syrians before the 1996 elections. In his opinion, such pressure could result in an agreement that was bad for Israel. In Or's opinion, Israel should not agree to the stationing of UN observers, international forces, of U.S. soldiers in the territories or on the Golan Heights. He prefers joint patrols, similar to the ones now being carried out by Palestinians and Israelis in the autonomous areas.

Or said that Israel's security needs necessitate its continued control over the Golan Heights, the Jordan Rift Valley, the northern part of the Dead Sea, and the Jerusalem area, as well as several strategic points where Palestinian autonomy should not be permitted. Or mentioned the possibility of creating Jewish settlement blocs in Judaea and Samaria and did not rule out the possibility of uprooting remote or isolated settlements and relocating them inside the Jewish settlement blocs.

Meridor enumerated the threats to Israel's security that would be posed by the establishment of a Palestinian state. As stated before, several participants claimed that Meridor did not categorically reject a territorial compromise if Israel's security was guaranteed. According to these sources, Likud MK's did not express any opposition to lumping the Jewish settlements in the territories together in large blocs.

Yesterday, Meridor denied that he had expressed readiness for a territorial compromise. He was furious that details of the meeting had leaked to the media and said that if these leaks continued he would propose to dissolve the forum.

The forum members will apparently meet in another two weeks at Eli Goldschmidt's home in Kibbutz Deganya.

The LEHAVA [Hebrew acronym for Renewal in the Likud Movement] group has begun signing up Likud Central Committee members on a manifesto expressing support for the possibility of territorial compromise. The group's members have called for an urgent convention of the Likud Central Committee, in which they intend to put their political plan to a vote.

Statements in support of the Allon Plan, which were voiced by Dani Kohen, the group's chairman, at a convention of the "Third Path" two weeks ago, drew sharp criticism from the Likud spokesman who asserted that "Dani Kohen was a marginal figure in the Likud."

In response, Kohen said that the LEHAVA group comprised several hundred party members, including several dozen central committee members.

The LEHAVA manifesto stipulates that Israel's political plan should include its opposition to the establishment of a Palestinian state in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip and a total rejection of the Right of Return. The plan should note Israel's readiness for a territorial compromise—which would only be spelled out in detail in the framework of negotiations. Autonomy would only apply to individuals and not to territories, and Israel's continued sovereignty over the Jordan Rift Valley, the northern part of the Dead Sea, the Golan Heights, metropolitan Jerusalem, the 'Etzyon Bloc, the Qatif Bloc, and in all the areas of Jewish settlement considered vital for security would be guaranteed.

It should be noted that despite being entrusted with the task by the party's central committee over six months ago, the Likud bureau has still not formulated a draft proposal for a political plan.

UTJ's Porush Quits Knesset, Replaced by Verdiger

TA2106183794 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] United Torah Jewry [UTJ] Knesset Member Menahem Porush quit the Knesset today after 35 years of service. Porush sent his handwritten letter of resignation through his grandson. The letter to the Knesset speaker simply states: I hereby would like to inform you of my resignation from the Knesset. According to the rotation agreement in UTJ, Porush will be replaced by Avraham Verdiger.

Yi'UD Approves Opening of Coalition Negotiations

TA2206051794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] The YI'UD [Independent and Democratic Israel] party's council has given its backing to negotiations with Labor to enter the coalition. Any agreement will be brought before the council.

Meanwhile, Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan said he believes that there will be legal complications with YI'UD joining the coalition. He said he was not sure whether Gonen Segev could serve as a minister or Alex Goldfarb as a deputy minister. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says the attorney general believes there is no legal problem with Gonen Segev serving as a minister, while the prime minister's legal adviser believes there is no possibility of appointing someone from a breakaway faction to the post of minister.

King Comments on U.S. Ties, Syria, Peace

JN2306151894 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1232 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Interview with King Husayn by Hisham Milhim in Washington; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Milhim] Your Majesty: Your meeting with President Bill Clinton was the first since the recent Jordanian-Israeli agreement and the first since the disagreement on resolving the inspection measures at the al-'Aqabah Port. What do you expect now from the United States regarding bilateral ties and the peace process? Can we say that there will be greater concentration now on bilateral ties? Did you discuss, in this context, the issue of Jordan getting new economic aid from Washington or exempting Jordan from repaying some of its old military and nonmilitary loans?

[Husayn] As a matter of fact, we raised all of these issues with our friends in the United States during the visit. We hope they will play a great role in the coming stage to help Jordan overcome the difficult situation it is experiencing, particularly in the economic field and the debts, whether by postponing the repayment or easing the burden or writing off the debt in the future. On the bilateral level, there is a joint U.S.-Jordanian committee. We hope this committee will serve as a mechanism to promote relations in the future in all fields of importance to us and them.

[Milhim] Have you found understanding in the United States of Jordan's economic situation and a willingness to support you?

[Husayn] We sensed understanding of our situation and needs. At the same time, we believe there is a positive U.S. attitude now and regarding the future to support Jordan more with regard to its march to provide the needs of the human being, the most important element in its existence now and in the future, especially if a comprehensive peace is achieved, as we hope.

[Milhim] In light of the recent Jordanian-Israeli agreement, did you ask President Clinton that Washington continue or develop its role in the peace process, particularly since President Clinton has pointed out the need to achieve comprehensive peace?

[Husayn] There is no doubt that the U.S. role as a sponsor of the peaceful march is important. The U.S. contributions have so far made it possible for the talks to reach this point. We will begin—and we hope this will take place next month—a long, arduous phase of serious negotiations to tackle all the items on the agenda that was agreed upon and ratified here in Washington immediately after the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. We hope that all these issues will be addressed satisfactorily toward a comprehensive and just peace. We now feel that it is our duty to pay attention to our own concerns regarding the present and future of Jordan, because the existence of Jordan, apart from any other consideration, we believe, is the right of all its sons of all origins. Therefore, we have a national and pan-Arab mission in preserving a strong, constant Jordan in the region at present and in the future to play the role we have always played in the Middle East.

[Milhim] The recent Jordanian-Israeli agreement came as a surprise to some observers. What are the factors that led to the agreement, especially the timing? Is it true that Jordan is worried that it will lag behind other tracks, especially the Palestinian track?

[Husayn] The fact is that these questions about the timing are not justified. This is because after endorsing the agenda, we were supposed to begin immediately. If there was some delay, it was due to other incidents and concerns of other concerned parties in the region. When we saw a chance to begin to discuss the agenda that was signed some time ago, we welcomed this and preferred to see negotiations move to the region in particular, especially since one of the most important issues that must be discussed is Jordanian sovereignty over Jordanian territories, and returning and recognizing these territories in full. There is also the question of waters, the environment, and other issues. This requires that the meetings be held in the region itself so as to define these dimensions and address their requirements. As for Jordan's position, I once again reiterate with pride that Jordan has been, since its inception, the closest to the Palestinian cause, in terms of the people, the land, and the rights. Perhaps that has been our destiny as a family. We are proud of belonging to Jordan, since the Great Arab Revolt. We have offered a great deal and considered the cause one of destiny and future to us under all circumstances. However, Sir, in practical terms, regarding the recent years after 1967, we fought the battle along with our brothers, led by Egypt, as a reaffirmation of our Arab commitment to the Collective Defense Pact and our belonging to the Arab League. At a later stage, our brothers in Egypt chose to walk the path of peace. They were the leaders in 1967. After that, the Palestinian brothers, who are primarily concerned with this affair, decided to step forward and assume their responsibilities in looking for this right on their national soil. It was unreasonable for Jordan to lag behind or to wait for everybody else to address their own issues. Jordan, regrettably, has no support except from God Almighty in the region. Jordan has no support or backing from any superpowers, not even any countries in the region. For the sake of Palestine, the cause and the people, on the Palestinian national soil, and for the sake of the Arab nation and the defense of the depth of the Arab nation, Jordan must stay and continue. And it must be an example, not only with regard to political issues but also regarding many issues and problems which we face in our Arab nation, as well as in its democratic approach, respect for human rights, and political pluralism. At the same time, it must be a solid rock in the region. All circumstances, therefore, require that Jordan continue the quest. We are at the beginning of a long and arduous phase of negotiations. Whether we are going to succeed

or not depends on the Israeli side, because we are not seeking peace at any cost. We are looking for a just, honorable, and lasting peace and for our people's right to live and dream.

[Milhim] Damascus reactions to the Jordanian-Israeli agreement were critical. It was alleged that Jordan renounced coordination with Syria, especially in light of your recent visit to Damascus. Can you explain to us your concept of the nature of the understanding which you reached with President Hafiz al-Asad? What is your opinion about the Syrian attitude?

[Husayn] In fact, I was surprised by the Syrian reaction. I have not heard anything from His Excellency brother Hafiz al-Asad on the personal level. We have been in continuous contact until the latest stage. I paid a visit to Damascus, we met, and we discussed all issues. Therefore, I believe the political dimension concerning the Middle East issues, as well as our decisive and pan-Arab issues, will be tackled on our level, myself and my brother the president.

Regarding the coordination in general, we used this term and did our utmost to achieve it. I am not here dealing with this issue in light of the recent Syrian stand, but in light of its basis, namely, the Jordanian-Palestinian situation. Our issues and interests are interlinked. So, we should be together in confronting the dangers facing us. Coordination in the full sense of the word has not been achieved yet on any level. Every now and then we ask the brothers how far they have gone in their talks, or we tell them where we are, if they ask.

Our brothers in Syria have their own definite and known problems concerning the occupied Syrian territory. We have our own problems. Coordination has not reached the level of minor details. They, in Syria, can afford to wait in light of their circumstances, situation, and potentials. However, our issue and its interlinkage with the Palestinian issue made us discuss this issue. Jordan, Syria, the Palestinian brothers, and Lebanon started from the same point in Madrid. We are seeking a comprehensive peace. This, however, does not mean we relinquished our right to address our issues. We also do not assume that Syria will relinquish its right to address its issues. Neither do we assume that Syria should relinquish its rights to deal with its problems. We coordinate, if that is the word, concerning issues that we must coordinate about; that is, issues that we and they agree to coordinate on. However, practically, coordination in the sense I meant, talked about, or searched for was really talk devoid of substance, save our endeavors to reach a comprehensive and just peace acceptable to future generations.

[Milhim] Is the absence of Arab coordination caused by the requirements of sovereignty or is it caused by political differences, apprehension, or basic lack of trust between certain parties concerned? Coordination is like a group dance and it seems that some participants are accusing others of not moving to the agreed tunes.

[Husayn] Let me be frank on this point. We cannot say to the Arab people that there is coordination when there is no such thing and then surprise them with what is happening. The Jordanian-Syrian coordination which was planned to be a Syrian-Jordanian meeting on the level of the heads of the governments is on another dimension. It is connected with efforts to realize some integration, dealing with the Syrian-Jordanian family relations, if we can use this term. It was hoped that issues would develop concerning Lebanon. Such a meeting was held with Egypt so that we could gather together and begin to proceed toward the conditions which we wish. This was postponed at the wish of our Syrian brothers and we hope the postponement will not be for long.

[Milhim] Does this mean that the Jordanian-Syrian relations have entered a period of coolness? Do you intend to contain the situation?

[Husayn] [Words indistinct] problem concerning us and I do not believe that there is a problem with the Syrian brothers. We have remained in contact and together we suffered much throughout a very long journey. Brother President al-Asad knows me very well and I know him and our relationship is built on sincerity and truthfulness.

[Milhim] Recently, you also lamented lack of coordination with the PLO. How do you describe the relationship between you and the PLO now?

[Husayn] A good relationship. We supported the PLO from the beginning and we addressed the Palestinian people as a whole and called on them to be cohesive and crystallize their ideas and ambitions through their cohesion, because the most dangerous thing is to break up in this critical phase. We also discuss the economic dimension. There is a Jordanian-Palestinian agreement followed by a Palestinian-Israeli agreement. Now we need a Jordanian-Palestinian- Israeli meeting to review all that happened and see where we might reach. Had there been coordination and a joint Palestinian- Jordanian stand from the beginning, we would have taken a short cut and perhaps realized more than what we have realized so far. Therefore, our position in the future will be to respond to any Palestinian appeal to us and help them in any way, one problem at a time because in the absence of real coordination, there could be integration in stands, this is the only choice.

[Milhim] Your Majesty can we imagine the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations in the coming months taking an advanced phase leading to signing a peace agreement even if no progress is realized on other tracks? This is what we understand from your statements.

[Husayn] It is very difficult to say how issues will develop but there is no reason why we should not have progress on all tracks so that all of us will reach the cherished goal and realize a just and comprehensive peace.

[Milhim] Five years ago you began the process of democratization and the expansion of the political base which led to the formation of parties and holding elections and other steps in this regard. Looking back, how would you evaluate the past phase? What were the most significant developments and what are the disappointments? Do you think that there should be a critical evaluation of what took place in the outgoing phase?

[Husayn] Critical revision is necessary all the time in the life of any people. I believe that this applies to us in Jordan, but the democratic choice and the participation of the Jordanians, regardless of their origins, in making their presence and future is an indispensable basis, in addition to the political pluralism and respect for human rights. Arab people need to feel—and I hope that the Jordanians now feel this—that they are not frustrated, that they are not shunned, that their rights and dignity are preserved, and that they practically and dynamically contribute to making their present and future. I believe that through this march, which could not resume except after the disengagement of administrative and legal connections with the West Bank, which was followed by the PLO's acceptance of Resolution 242 until we reached the present conditions—I say that through this march, which proceeded in very difficult circumstances and in the face of most dangerous challenges in the region, we have found ourselves stronger than we have ever been despite the continuous pressures and the difficulties which we are suffering.

[Milhim] Your Majesty: Prior to the outbreak of war in Yemen, Jordan contributed to the attempts to arrive at a political settlement. However, the explosion took place. How do you assess the situation in Yemen and the future of Yemen? What do the events in Yemen mean with respect to the absence of an Arab authority or Arab mechanism to prevent similar explosions in Arab states?

[Husayn] I believe that this situation or any similar tragic situation in the Arab homeland should be tackled within an Arab context. Therefore, we had responded to the brothers' appeal and tried the impossible for months to arrive at the accord that was signed in Amman. Representatives of the entire Yemeni people and all forces in Yemen without exception attended the signing ceremony and signed the accord. We had high hopes that that event would be a turning point. However, we were soon surprised by the consecutive explosions. At the beginning, we tried, through a Jordanian team and a fraternal Omani team both working as one team, to stop the deterioration. We were successful to a great extent. Later, the picture became broader in terms of participation by other brothers and various sides. In fact, we discovered that we could not continue our mission with respect to the military aspect of the Yemeni agreement. This is because unless there is political will, it would be difficult to continue the process of unifying the army and the Armed Forces. This was supposed to take place at the beginning of the unity. However, our brothers' efforts were negatively affected for a while after the Gulf crisis. Besides, we were all too preoccupied to perform our duty toward them in terms of providing advice to help them at that time. Therefore, we withdrew the military team, and so did Oman. Afterward, matters proceeded toward an explosion. We have a Jordanian medical team there doing its best on the humanitarian level. We still hope that those Yemeni figures who met in Amman as representatives of entire Yemen and its areas, political movements, and people will have the ability, just as they had the ability to meet in Amman, to maintain Yemeni unity and to create the logic and ability to accept even a small portion of the human and material losses on the Yemeni area, so that partition could be avoided, for, God forbid, Yemen could be partitioned even into more than south and north. We have always been supportive of a unified, modern, democratic, and strong Yemen to take its place in the Arab world. I do not know what the motives and reasons are, but, regrettably, it seems that many elements in the Arab world seek a future fragmentation, thus leading to potential dangers and disasters throughout the entire Arab world. We will not hesitate to undertake any effort for the sake of our brothers in Yemen.

Concludes Visit, Leaves for UK

JN2306175794 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn concluded a working visit to the United States and left Washington today for the United Kingdom. [passage omitted]

Ministers View King's 'Successful' U.S. Visit

Al-Majali: Ties Moved to New Stage

JN2306183394 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has said the results of His Majesty King Husayn's visit to the United States shifted the Jordanian-U.S. relations to a very advanced stage compared with how they were in the past.

In an exclusive statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Dr. al-Majali said relations between the two friendly countries will witness substantial progress in various fields, especially since His Majesty King Husayn's visit has laid down strong bases for bolstering and developing these relations, which became clearer concerning the peace process.

He said His Majesty King Husayn's talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton dotted the i's concerning the economic issue and peace.

He emphasized that the U.S. President was clear when he stressed that Jordan should not bear alone the responsibility of peace, but all countries should share Jordan in shouldering this responsibility.

Al-'Anani: Visit Opens 'New Horizons'

JN2406070794 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Information Minister Dr. Jawad al-'Anani has said that His Majesty King Husayn's visit to the United States and his talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton and senior U.S. officials were successful by all standards and opened new horizons for relations with the United States based on mutual understanding and respect.

Speaking to the Jordanian News Agency, the information minister said the talks underscored Jordan's independent character vis-a-vis the basic political decisions as well as Jordan's efforts to maintain distinguished Arab relations in the region and its eagerness to promote coordination among the Arab parties to the highest possible level.

He added that the visit has deepened the relationship between His Majesty King Husayn and the U.S. President as the talks gave them a good opportunity to read the ideas of each other and enabled his majesty the king to explain the Jordanian position in a comprehensive and accurate manner which helped the U.S. President better understand the Jordanian position and realize Jordan's basic role in the peace process.

Dr. al-'Anani said that by his meetings with senior U.S. officials at the State, Commerce, and Defense Departments and the House of Representatives, Senate, U.S. press, and several influential U.S. figures, His Majesty King Husayn sought to secure an understanding of the Jordanian position in order to meet the Jordanian demands to conclude the procedures on lifting the siege of al-'Aqabah, proceed along the peace process on the basis of the Jordanian-Israeli agenda and the appreciation expressed for the Jordanian democratization experiment and respect for human rights, and improve economic and social conditions in Jordan in spite of the large volume of foreign debt and the increasing burdens on the Jordanian economy.

The information minister said Jordan managed to obtain an unequivocal promise from the United States to increase its economic aid to Jordan and to seriously consider writing off Jordan's official debts to the United States and to cooperate with Jordan toward rescheduling Jordanian debts during the Paris Club meetings, slated to begin on 27 June, so that the other creditors will reduce Jordan's debts to them.

Asked about the Jordanian role in the regional peace process, Dr. al-'Anani said: In talks with the strongest country, it is useful to explain the Jordanian position, especially since its decisions, whether on the peace process or within the rich group of states, are important and very influential. Dialogue with a state like the United States is required to explain the Jordanian position and acquire U.S. support for this position.

He said: Because the U.S. arena is open for all countries, maintaining contacts with it emphasizes Jordan's identity, legitimate rights, and principled stands. This is what I felt took place during the talks held during the visit.

The information minister stressed that Jordan has sovereign demands which it should obtain through the peace process. These are land and water. He said Jordan is perseveringly and continuously seeking to secure the rights of refugees and evacuees without adversely affecting Jordan's demographic or geographic unity. He added that the U.S. side fully understood all these points. He said the U.S. side naturally has demands; it wishes to see Jordan and the other Arab countries reach a peace agreement with Israel. However, this U.S. position does not mean that the U.S. political agendas should be imposed on Jordan; Jordan should explain its position on the need to have a comprehensive peace. This is what took place during this visit.

Dr. al-'Anani said: We in Jordan joined the peace process in order to restore our rights and help the other Arab parties obtain their rights. This is the concept of a comprehensive peace which was underscored by President Clinton after his meeting with His Majesty King Husayn.

The information minister said: It is also obvious that some U.S. parties would like to see a meeting between ranking Jordanian officials and officials in Israel. However, Jordan's position was clear. It said these meetings should not merely be symbolic, but must have substance and lead to resolving the basic problems. Therefore, timing such meetings depends on the course of events and this is what His Majesty King Husayn stressed in his meetings with the Congress and the press.

He said one of the main dimensions of the results of His Majesty King Husayn's visit to the United States is the United States' readiness to enable several Jordanians to increase their exports to the United States, which constitutes the largest market for any country in the world. He said: According to the agreement reached between His Majesty King Husayn and President Clinton, the Jordanian-U.S. committee held its first meeting at the U.S. State Department yesterday. Agreement was reached that the committee meetings should be held regularly once every six months. During the meeting, Jordan's debts to the United States and other creditors and the means to ease them were discussed, in addition to increasing U.S. aid to Jordan and increasing Jordanian exports to the United States.

The information minister said the U.S. side showed an understanding of Jordan's defense needs and promised to meet them. He added that it is clear that Jordan's reputation among the U.S. officials and the U.S. people is high. All of them, he said, expressed their admiration for Jordan's wise leadership and the democratization process, which is considered an example to be emulated and a pioneering experiment in the region. All officials also expressed admiration for the respect for human

rights in Jordan. This is attested by the concerned independent international institutions and organizations. In this regard, Dr. al-'Anani referred to the World Bank report, which praised the Jordanian economic policy in restructuring the economy and increasing economic growth as well as Jordan's continuous endeavors to improve the citizens' standard of living. The report also stressed that Jordan, which is doing its best to rectify its economic situation, will need to ease at least one-third of its foreign debts so that the volume of debt will reach an internationally reasonable level.

Accomplishments of King's U.S. Visit Noted

JN2406065394 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Jun 94 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "King Husayn's Visit to Washington: Important Results and Urgent Achievements"]

[Text] With the end of His Majesty King Husayn's important visit to Washington, and in the wake of the series of meetings his majesty the king held with the U.S. President, Congressmen, and the secretaries of state and defense, we can say that Jordan stands on the threshold of a big historic phase that will produce important results on the political and economic levels.

In addition to the important achievements attained in this visit, we can also note two important accomplishments: First, rectifying the course of Jordanian-U.S. relations, which were affected by the negative repercussions of the second Gulf war; the second accomplishment is represented by the fact that Jordan has openly and finally decided its national option through King Husayn's announcement that achieving progress on the Jordanian track is no longer linked with what is taking place on the other tracks.

The great importance of this stems from the fact that Jordan has reiterated, through this development, its influential peace efforts, as well as its commitment to hold—at the appropriate speed—serious talks on the joint agenda with Israel. Through this development, Jordan has also regained the leverage of its exceptional role in the peace process and reorganized its priorities in light of its long-term interests and in accordance with its own views.

Jordan has now ended the state in which others have to wait; it has ended a situation in which Jordan would be the last party to negotiate and the last party to sign. This does not serve national interests or higher pan-Arab interests. Furthermore, such a situation will not help Jordan restore all its rights to land and water and will curb its freedom to exercise its sovereign rights.

As we look with extreme importance and concern at the results of His Majesty King Husayn's visit to the American capital, we hope that Israel will receive this Jordanian trend with a positive spirit and will stop the game of wasting time and the tug-of-war policy. The objective is to achieve a fair and comprehensive peace that will be accepted by coming generations which will feel, through this peace, a change in the quality of life of people throughout the entire region.

SAWT AL-SHA'B on Warming Relations

JN2406071794 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 24 Jun 94 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "Husayn Succeeds in Rearranging Priorities"]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has succeeded in breaking, and removing completely, the ice that accumulated on relations between Jordan and the United States.

King Husayn also succeeded in convincing President Clinton, his administration's officials, and the U.S. Congress of the importance of the effective and influential Jordanian role in the achievement of comprehensive peace and restoring security and stability to the region.

During his meetings and talks with President Clinton and his administration's officials, and with various economic, security, and political U.S. institutions, His Majesty King Husayn managed to confirm his knowledge and experience in managing crises and confirmed that the Jordanian role in the region cannot in any way be marginalized or ignored.

His Majesty King Husayn also persuaded the U.S. Administration to take care of priorities and to work on addressing the standing issues and problems with Israel before talking about the possibility of reaching peace with it. Through the U.S. Administration, he managed to convince Israel of these requirements, which are the requirements for peace. Therefore, an agreement must be reached on delineating borders and restoring Jordan's share of water since it is a question of sovereignty before anything else.

His Majesty King Husayn managed to explain to the U.S. Administration and the U.S. Congress the economic and social difficulties facing the country as a result of the second Gulf War, the blockade of al-'Aqabah, and the Arab boycott and the damage it has brought to the Jordanian economy. He stressed that unless these issues are addressed, it will be difficult to talk about peace and mutual goodwill in the bilateral ties.

His Majesty King Husayn succeeded in presenting all these facts to President Clinton and his administration officials. He received a positive response to his demand and an acknowledgement of the soundness of his view and positions and the sincerity of his intentions and tendencies.

Therefore, His Majesty King Husayn's visit to Washington and his meetings and talks there were, by all standards, a success.

This success, however, particularly on the level of the peace talks, will not be at the expense of the Arab

brothers or their rights. Jordan has from the beginning been committed to, and will continue to be committed to, the comprehensive peace.

This Jordanian commitment made President Clinton stress his administration's commitment to support a settlement on all tracks in order to reach a comprehensive peace.

Finance Minister on Financial Talks With U.S.

JN2406074394 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] Finance Minister Sami Qammuh has said that during his meeting with His Majesty King Husayn, U.S. President Bill Clinton promised to study Jordan's request to reduce its debt to the United States. Speaking to the Jordanian News Agency, he added that creditor states were contacted in order to enable Jordan to restructure and reduce its debts.

Qammuh said he held talks with officials at the U.S. Treasury and State Departments on the economic and financial situation in the Kingdom, particularly the subject of debt and the need to address it and find the right solution to reduce it. He added that the issue of rescheduling debt at the Paris Club was discussed. Jordan asked that the debt due to be paid over the next three years be rescheduled. He said the Jordanian side received promises from the U.S. Administration to support Jordan's request to obtain the best possible terms through the Paris Club. We, he said, hope all our requests will be met.

The finance minister added that the U.S. side praised the serious Jordanian measures to rectify the economy and to modernize financial and economic regulations and laws so the Kingdom will be able to attract investment and encourage and increase national exports.

Qammuh left Washington for Paris last night to attend the Paris Club meetings on Jordanian debt.

Paper: 'Too Early' for Results From Talks With Israel

JN2406083794 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 24 Jun 94 pp 1, 27

[Editorial: "Difficult Road to Restore Rights"]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn's visit to the United States, during which he held a summit meeting with the U.S. President, aimed at explaining the Jordanian stand to Arab and world public opinion regarding the progress achieved on the Jordanian-Israeli negotiating track.

His majesty the king's statements and clarifications were heard with great interest by various media and political quarters, because these statements and stands showed a clear vision, an accurate depiction of the existing situation, and adherence to the stands and policies that have always been followed by Jordan.

At the top of the stands emphasized by His Majesty King Husayn is Jordan's sacred right to restore its rights and complete sovereignty—the objective for which Jordan has been waging the battle of negotiations. Meanwhile, the king was eager to clearly note that Jordan still has to wage a long and difficult battle to seize its rights and that the success in this battle depends both on continuous Jordanian steadfastness and on an Israeli readiness to give up occupied Jordanian territory.

The direct and deep meaning of this is that Jordan has never departed from the battle of extracting its rights and that there is still an important, and perhaps long, phase before achieving the legitimate national objectives.

If we add to this Jordan's commitment to work for a comprehensive peace, in accordance with which all Arab rights will be restored—as the peace agreement will crown the achievement of a solution to all problems in the region, as his majesty put it—we will find that the road is still long and difficult. And this in itself requires moral and political support from the Arab brothers and the continuation of a fair and earnest U.S. policy to make the achieved progress reach its expected and logical end of Israeli withdrawal and the restoration of Jordan's international borders as demarcated between Palestine and Transjordan during the British mandate.

Therefore, the next weeks and months are expected to witness a serious, active, and intensive political move on this level under the agreed international sponsorship of the U.S., as happened and is happening on the other tracks. In light of this, it is too early to predict swift and categorical results, although it is certain that Jordan will continue its firm adherence to its rights and sovereignty to achieve Israeli retreat. This is considered a national right and an important and major step on the path toward restoring all Arab rights and territories.

Buwayz on Israeli Withdrawal, Jordanian Move

JN2306201394 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1735 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by Kamal Tarabayh on 23 June; place not given; from "The Political Week" program—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Tarabayh] What is the latest about the Middle East peace process on the Lebanese-Israeli track?

[Buwayz] I am sure you are aware that Lebanon entered these negotiations on two principles. The first concerns Lebanon; that is, Israeli occupation of the Lebanese territory in the south and western al-Biqa'. Lebanon continues to believe that Resolution 425 constitutes the accurate, clear, and just mechanism to remove this occupation. This is a basic condition.

Secondly, Lebanon is concerned about the dispute in general. Lebanon is an Arab country, one of the ancient Arab decisionmaking states and one of the founding members of the Arab League. It hosts a large number of Palestinian people. It is concerned with any peace in the region and with the fate of these Palestinians. Therefore, Lebanon deals with this issue in general in solidarity with the other Arab states. It will not sign an agreement in isolation of the other concerned states and before these states have regained their usurped rights. So far, Israel wants to combine these two cases and we cannot yet say that Israel has agreed to the principle of leaving the occupied Lebanese territory.

We presented a clear mechanism. We said that Israel should abide by full withdrawal behind the internationally recognized borders. For this reason, we will accept the formation of a joint military committee to discuss the tabulation and programming of this withdrawal in addition to how peace and stability can be secured in the south. Lebanon will then begin talks in solidarity with its brothers on the level of this future peace. [passage omitted]

[Tarabayh] Mr. Minister, frankly speaking, you are aware that the West, especially the United States, is asking the Lebanese state to spread its control on the entire southern region; that is, stopping the resistance operations so that Israel could stop its attacks on the south. Are you adhering to the principled stand of the Lebanese government; that is, continuing the resistance until the end of the occupation?

[Buwayz] You said at the beginning that the world is demanding that Lebanon impose its control over its entire territory. That is what we wish and that is what we are demanding from the Western world. However, the reality is different. We believe that nobody in this world would like to die for nothing, nobody likes to die unless he believes in a sublime objective. We believe that the resistance is the result and not the cause of the occupation because it began after the occupation. A solution for this problem lies in reassuring Lebanon that Israel will withdraw from its territory to the internationally recognized borders. I believe that other solutions, be they military or security solutions, have proved after many years that they are futile and will only result in more violence in southern Lebanon.

I really would like to ask about the results of the Israeli attacks on the south over the past 10 years. Have these attacks with all their technology, sophistication, and power, been able to cancel the will of the Lebanese people to regain their south? I think the solution is a political one and lies in a clear Israeli commitment to withdraw from southern Lebanese.

[Tarabayh] If full Israeli withdrawal from the south is realized, will Hizballah undertake to hand in their weapons and renounce fighting?

[Buwayz] In any case, there is an undertaking by the Lebanese state that when Israel withdraws, this Lebanese state will be committed—and it now has all the resources, and the required security and stability—to implementing a full security plan in the southern region. I believe that this has been a constant policy of the successive governments during the era of President al-Hirawi. These governments have presented this undertaking to more than one team. Lebanon does not love violence and trouble. It does not seek more than its natural and legitimate rights. When this is realized. the Lebanese state, which is now strong by its armed forces, will be committed to spreading its full control over the entire south and laying down the basis of peace and stability. [passage omitted]

[Tarabayh] What is Lebanon's attitude on the various tracks of negotiations and the Arab coordination?

[Buwayz] We have all wished this peace to be a comprehensive peace. We cannot view the comprehensiveness of this solution and this peace the way things are being done; that is, by separate means. Therefore, Lebanon, which believes that this peace has to be either comprehensive or not to be at all, based on experience and prior consideration of things, cannot but call on everybody to effect cohesion in the peace process.

Moreover, we believe that this peace is an Arab-Israeli peace decision. Who represents the Arabs? They are represented by all their states, trends, and forces. Therefore, we believe that separate solutions will empty the meaning of a comprehensive solution for the Arab-Israeli question. So far, we believe that an Arab peace decision cannot be concluded except through a unified Arab decision. It does not come through separate paths.

As for what was realized on the Jordanian level in terms of achievements, so far I really do not believe that there are achievements. I do not know if you are aware what these achievements are.

Defense Minister: Syrian Help Needed in South

NC2306114694 Paris AFP in English 1052 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Abu Dhabi, June 23 (AFP)—Lebanon is ready to prevent cross-border attacks with Syrian help if Israel withdraws its troops from the south, Lebanon's defence minister was quoted on Thursday [23 June] as saying.

Muhsin Dallul said the government wanted Syrian troops, which entered in 1976 at the request of the Arab League, to stay in Lebanon to help the army in deploying in all parts of the country following the end of the civil war.

"We need help from the Syrian forces in providing some brigades to be sent to the south in case there was an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied areas," he told the United Arab Emirates daily AL- KHALIJ.

"Our relationship with the Syrian forces is strategic in this respect. There are several areas where we need the support of the Syrians. This issue is not for discussion at all because the Syrian forces came to Lebanon at an official request and their stay is still demanded officially."

Israel, which controls a border strip in the south to prevent cross-border attacks by Palestinian and Lebanese guerrillas, has accused the nearly 35,000 Syrian troops in Lebanon of backing the guerrillas.

It has also called for border security arrangements with Lebanon as one of the conditions for quitting the south.

"We reject any talk about security arrangements with Israel," he said.

"We are sticking to UN Resolution 425 and we have the capability of preventing any infiltration or operation from the south against Israel after the implementation of that resolution," Dallul said.

"But if Israel stayed, then we have a great national decision, which considers the attacks against the Israelis in the south as legitimate because we are not policemen for protecting the occupation. We reject this occupation and believe the resistance is carrying out a legitimate and national duty, which must continue so long as the occupation stays."

Dallul said Israel wanted to destabilise Lebanon to scare away tourists, a key hard currency earner for Lebanon. He expected Israel to continue attacks on Lebanon but added: "Let Israel do whatever it wants. We will not fulfill its wishes and we will not stop resistance attacks."

Weekly Reports Nasrallah-Fadlallah Differences

NC2306173394 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 20 Jun 94 pp 14-15

[Unattributed report]

[Excerpts] Differences have emerged between Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah and Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah. The differences came into the open when Hizballah held a memorial service in the Southern Suburb for the martyrs of the Zionist aggression against Hizballah's camp in 'Ayn Kawkab in al-Biqa' and the program did not include a speech by Fadlallah.

It is worth noting that this was the first time in more than 10 years that Fadlallah had attended a function without delivering a speech.

A number of Nasrallah's supporters left a ceremony held by the Iranian Embassy on 5 June to mark the anniversary of Imam Khomeyni's death when Fadlallah mounted the rostrum to begin a speech.

It should be recalled that Fadlallah and Nasrallah share the loyalty of Hizballah members. But the Hizballah secretary general has been trying for more than a year to "purge" the party's ranks of the supporters of Fadlallah and the former Hizballah secretary general Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli.

Within this framework, Nasrallah has been having his supporters distribute a book of remarks about Fadlallah's course. He has also been telling his supporters that Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli is responsible for the clashes that took place between Hizballah and the Amal Movement. [passage omitted]

Nasrallah is currently facing problems with many Iranian parties because of the many setbacks Hizballah has suffered since Nasrallah assumed the post of secretary general. These setbacks—which he suffered among the Shi'ah scholars, party members, and the general public—recently forced him to expel more than 250 party members for various reasons.

Iranian Aid to Hizballah Reportedly Reduced

NC2306151194 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 20 Jun 94 p 13

[Text] Hizballah's budget last month was reduced to less than a quarter after financial aid from Iran decreased by the same proportion.

Al-Asad Receives Yemeni Socialist Party Delegation

JN2406124094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] At 1230 today, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received at the al-Rawdah Palace a Yemeni delegation comprising Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, and Muhsin Muhammad Abu-Bakr.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Rashid Akhtarini and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Al-Asad Cables Iran's President, Denounces Bombing

JN2306171194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has sent a cable to Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, expressing his condolences over the victims of the criminal incident in the city of Mashhad.

The following is the text of the cable: We have been extremely pained by the falling of victims as a result of the criminal incident which occurred in the holy city of Mashhad. We strongly denounce this incident and express to your excellency and to the families of the victims our heartfelt condolences. We pray to God Almighty to grant the injured speedy recovery.

Mashariqah Receives Sudanese Energy Minister

JN2206151194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Vice President Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah received Engineer Salah-al-Din Karrar, Sudanese minister of energy and mining, at 1000 today. 'Abd-al-Hafiz Ibrahim, Sudanese charge d'affaires in Damascus, attended the meeting.

Talks dealt with the current situation in the Arab region and with bilateral issues.

Workers Cable Support to al-Asad on Peace Process

JN2006111694 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 8 Jun 94 pp 1, 11

[Text] Damascus (SANA)—The working class has renewed its pledge of loyalty, commitment, and allegiance to President Hafiz al- Asad on the occasion of holding the fourth session of the General Council of the General Federation of Workers Union. The cable says:

The General Council of the General Federation of Workers Union meeting in its fourth session renews to you the pledge of loyalty, affection, and commitment which our working class has believed in and considered a firm course for its struggle, which depends on your generous offers and directives and adheres to the national and pan-Arab constants which you have affirmed and which have been entrenched in our national march and productive process so that Syria under your leadership will be the pioneer of struggle for liberating the occupied Arab territory, restoring usurped rights, and preserving Arab solidarity as the course for mobilizing Arab potentials in face of the challenges threatening the present and future of the Arab nation.

Our General Council held deep discussions on the recent Arab and international developments and their repercussions on our people and working class and was in close touch with the successive events. It affirmed its adherence to rights under all circumstances and its readiness for all the proposed possibilities for achieving a just and comprehensive solution without abandoning or conceding any inch of the occupied territory. We recall your words that there is not a single house in Syria which has not lost a martyr in defense of the homeland, the nation, and Arab rights. For the sake of these martyrs and their sons and families we want the peace of the brave; a real, viable peace which will last and guarantee everyone's interests and give everyone his rights.

We pledge to interpret your words into action and creative initiative in the field production and services and to improve the standard of our trade union performance in the work sites and in all fields in order to overcome existing hardships. Our working class and its trade unionist organizations are loyal and committed to the course which has been chosen by our party and National Progressive Front under your wise leadership in order to protect national gains and achievements, develop national production in all fields, and safeguard the great generous offer [wage increase] which you granted the sons and daughters of the working class on their world labor day.

Our workers will remain loyal soldiers committed to the national and pan-Arab march under your wise and courageous leadership until the achievement of our nation's objectives of unity, freedom, and socialism.

Afghanistan

Uzbek Militias' Aircraft Attack Tajiks

94P50160A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Jun 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Ra'fat Yahya]

[Text] Islamabad—Reliable Afghan sources connected with the Tajik opposition have told AL-HAYAH that warplanes belonging to the Uzbek militias under 'Abdol Rashid Dostam have raided the Tajik refugee camps in the Qonduz area in northern Afghanistan. The raids took place the day before yesterday and resulted in eight killed (most of them women and children) and 12 wounded.

The Tajik refugees have come under fire from two sides: the Communist government [of Tajikistan] and the Russian forces that support it, from one side, and the formerly Communist General Dostam's militias, which are considered to be carrying out Moscow's plans to eliminate the radicals in the Tajik opposition, from the other.

This aggression comes at a time when talks are going on in Tehran between the Communist Tajik Government and the Islamic opposition to reach a cease-fire between the two sides.

Informed Tajik sources connected with [the talks] told AL-HAYAH that the raid was part of plans that have been carried out for some time to force hundreds of thousands of Tajik emigrants to leave the Afghan areas adjacent to the borders of their country, in view of the fact that the emigrants are a source of recruitment for the opposition, besides their being a political cover for it.

The same sources affirmed that the recent raids have not been the first of their kind. Dostam's fighters had previously raided the emigrant camps several times, killing more than 40 Tajiks and wounding 100 others in two of the raids. They indicated that the militias also use other means to terrorize the refugees, among them poisoning the drinking water in their camps, which has caused the death of more than 90 people.

India

Kidnapped UK Nationals Released in Kashmir

BK2306155194 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] In the Kashmir Valley, the two Britishers—Kim Housego and Mr. David Mackie—kidnapped by the militants have been released after 17 days of captivity. The two were released unconditionally today in the jungles of Pahalgam. Later, they were brought to Srinagar where they were handed over to the first secretary of the British High Commission in India. The two Britishers were kidnapped on the 7th of this month from Kharo in Pahalgam by a militant outfit, Harkatul Ansar.

Talking to AIR [All India Radio] correspondent in Srinagar after their release, Kim Housego and David Mackie said they did not know the exact location where they were kept. They were taken from place to place during their 17-day ordeal.

The British foreign secretary, Mr. Douglas Hurd, has welcomed the release of the two Britons. In a statement in London, he thanked the Government of India and others who helped their release.

Authorities To Launch Kashmir 'Action Plan'

BK2406052094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] An action plan is to be launched in Jammu and Kashmir for improving the law and order situation. The BSF [Border Security Force], CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force], and the Jammu and Kashmir Police will coordinate in its implementation. The plan will have both short-term and long-term perspectives.

The minister of state for home, Rajesh Pilot, discussed the details at a meeting he had with the minister of state for defense, Mr. Mallikarjun, in New Delhi yesterday. They reviewed the steps being taken to deal with the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in Doda District. The secretaries of home and defense, the director generals of BSF and CRPF, and senior Army and Home Ministry officials attended the discussions.

Leaders Comment on Split in Janata Dal

BK2206161194 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] The Janata Dal parliamentary party leader, Mr. Sharad Yadav, and Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan, MP, are of the view that their party has no president at present. Briefing newsmen in New Delhi today, they said that had proposed constitution of a steering committee for leading the party. They alleged that yesterday's split in the party was aimed at destabilizing the Lalu Prasad Yadav government in Bihar.

Meanwhile, in Patna, a number of Janata Dal MP's and MLA's [Members of Legislative Assembly] at a meeting have expressed full faith in the leadership of the chief minister, Mr. Lalu Prasad Yadav. The chief minister later told newspersons that all the ministers and legislators present in Patna attended the meeting. On the contrary, Mr. Nitish Kumar, a member of the breakaway Janata Dal claimed in Patna today that 90 percent of the party's rank and file supported his group in Bihar. He also claimed that a majority of party members in the Rajya Sabha will soon join the new group. Another member of the split group, Mr. Harikishore Singh, told our correspondent in New Delhi that their group would like the president of Janata Dal, Mr. Bommai, to cooperate with them for upholding the ideals for which the party has always stood for. Mr. Bommai, on the other hand, told newspersons in Bangalore that he will reach

New Delhi tomorrow in a bid to bring back the breakaway group of MP's back into party fold. He described the decision by the 14 MP's as unfortunate, but not unexpected. Orissa chief minister, Mr. Biju Patnaik, told newspersons in Bhubaneshwar that the split will not have any impact on the party in Orissa.

Reacting on the split of the Janata Dal, the Congress-I spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, told newsmen in New Delhi that it is always sad in a democracy when a party splits. But, in the case of Janata Dal, it was inevitable. He said the Janata Dal was never a homogeneous party with leaders having no following.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] says only those political parties which have grown on the basis of an ideology will survive. The party spokesperson, Mrs. Sushmaswaraj, said that the political which have merged for political convenience will break up and disappear.

Rao Rules Out Ban on Satellite TV Channels

BK2406094094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, has called for the involvement of Panchayats [rural bodies] to disseminate information about developmental activities. Inaugurating the 21st conference of state ministers of information and cinematography in New Delhi today, he said Panchayat leaders should form part of a vital link in the two way communicational structure that should be established. This, he said, is very essential as a large number of beneficiaries of social welfare schemes are ignorant of them. Drawing attention to the revolution that is taking place in the field of information technology, Mr. Rao said we should preserve our cultural identity to prevent our society from becoming directionless.

Ruling out banning of satellite television channels, the prime minister said that Doordarshan [Indian Television] and All India Radio have a lot to learn from foreign media though they should not emulate them. He called for more attention to developing the programs that will be presented to the people.

In his keynote address, the information and broadcasting minister, Mr. K.P. Singh Deo, called for better coordination between the central and state governments to make mass communication more effective. He said his ministry is having a fresh look at the composition and terms of inter-media publicity coordination committees that are already working at the state level.

The meeting is discussing in three sessions the subjects of entertainment tax and films, interpersonal media, and the electronic media.

Confusion Over New Telecom Policy Viewed

BK2306102494 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 20 Jun 94 p 16

[Article by V. Shankar Aiyar and Raghu Nandan Dhar under the rubric "Telecom Policy Mess": "Can the Centre Wriggle Out?"]

[Text] Bombay—If there is anything clear about the telecom policy, it is the smoke signals of controversy emanating from its impending implementation. Also clear is the tact the lobbyists of every hue and class—multinationals, mixed breed companies and pure Indian corporate houses—are all attempting to cook the goose their way.

Facing this music is a bewildered Ministry of Communications, a confused Ministry of Finance [MoF] and a much-pilloried Department of Telecommunications [DoT] which believe that the easiest way out of the mess is to hand over the sector to the MNCs [multinational corporations] lock, stock and barrel.

In the cacophony of confusion that is currently prevailing, there are some voices emerging. Like that of D. Sengupta of ICICI's [Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India's] Telecom Group (I-TEL) which has submitted two important papers—on the regulatory body where he has stated the need for immediately establishing the authority before any decisions are taken and one on the entry conditions.

Highly placed sources in Department of Economic Affairs [DEA], which is co-ordinating the strategies for implementation along with Ministry of Communications and MoF, has in principle accepted I-TEL's recommendations for a telecom regulatory authority (except for the name...ICICI's I-TEL suggested ORBIT while the ministry has decided on TRA [Telecom Regulatory Authority])

Even DoT has along with DEA accepted the broad terms of reference suggested by I-TEL. Besides, the immediate need for instituting Telecom Regulatory Authority, the other recommendation that has been heard, is to allow private firms exclusive licence for a region for five years. Further, it has recommended that self-generated proposals should not be accepted as a rule and even if the proposal is extremely good it needs to be convened into a tender.

Sengupta's team spoke to AT&T, US West, Telstra Motorola and Sprint among others. To start with, it is surprising that an institutionally-backed cell has not spoken to any Indian corporate house or industry association. What is even more surprising is that the Sengupta committee has recommended foreign equity participation at as high as 49 per cent (51 per cent with Indians and NRIs [nonresident Indians]) when no country in the world allows foreigners such a high proportion of equity.

Even the Gods of capitalism, Americans do not allow equity of over 20 per cent. So the question-now to be asked is why MoF/DEA, and broadly speaking Government of India, are so keen to offer high levels of equity to the foreigners despite the clearly spelt out issue of national security? Surely the I-TEL group couldn't be unaware of the fact that capital markets have been opened and Indians can now go abroad and raise funds through the Euro-route. Why should there be an equity participation to start with? Can't the companies buy technology with monies raised abroad? What is worse is the manner in which Department of Economic Affairs has swallowed the recommendations (over which, thankfully, there has been no decision as yet).

These are but the primary issues. What Government needs to remember is that there is a waiting list of 3.5 million for telephone connections and to be able to service. "Telephone on demand by 1997", Government will need to put through 10 million lines through the Eighth Five Year Plan which would cost Government, at conservative estimates, around Rs 23,000 crore.

Very clearly, Government has to adopt some mantras for a successful implementation of NTP [national telecom policy]. The crucial route to success is essentially in tackling six basic areas: They are:

The right service area.
Number of competitors in local and long distance.
Seamless basic services.
Operating expertise.
Swift licensing process.
Independent regulator with a clearly defined role.

Let's take the issue of the right service area. Currently, DoT services are split in major units (18 circles and four metro districts) and minor units (321 telecom districts). In this, a third of the calls are local and two-thirds are long distance. In short, any company needs this mix to survive.

Even globally, most countries allow a kind of duopoly where operators are allowed access to areas exclusively while connecting them to trunk carriers. Particularly interesting is the UK experience where they franchised the entire country to a second carrier and allowed a third one recently to build market share. India should also follow a similar pattern and split the network into state-wide operating territories and club the north-east (to make a viable unit) allowing preferably one operator exclusively in a region.

As for the question of number of competitors, India is admittedly resource starved and hence there is little point in duplicating investments. There should be enough revenue potential to encourage growth and investment while at the same time competition to help improve service, quality and productivity. In fact worldwide, most countries allow one operator in an area (duopoly) and in US, it is just one operator...obviously aimed at curbing duplication of investments and counter-productive competition. Like UK, India too could consider duopoly for five years before reviewing the situation.

The moolah is in long distance as even MTNL [Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited] would agree. Telephone service cannot be isolated as only local or only long distance as it would be patently unfair. Witness the deterioration of services in Thailand where they kept only one long distance operator.

What India needs to do is to first decongest (the jammed) long distance and international traffic. One or even two more operators should be involved in augmenting the network (even through Build and Operate networks) laid by DoT. Secondly it should allow only one local licencee connected to long distance carriers with enough scope for customer traffic. Ideally, there should be one licencee within the state (who could also operate in another region/circle) but long distance should be allowed to criss-cross the country through state networks.

Iran

Reaction to Mashhad Bombing Continues

Velayati Addresses Envoys

LD2206202794 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati, speaking before a gathering of ambassadors, charges d'affaires, and diplomatic representatives of foreign countries in Tehran today, said that the double-standard of some countries regarding the ominous phenomenon of terrorism is an encouragement to the continuation of organized crime.

According to a report by our correspondent, the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, referring to the recent horrific crime by the hypocrites added: This catastrophe is so profound that no free-minded human being can regard it with indifference.

Velayati described the crime as similar to the one in Hebron in the occupied Palestine and said: Such terrorist acts against the great nation of Iran will never shake the determination of our people in confronting criminals.

Our country's foreign minister also called on the international community to confront the ominous phenomenon of terrorism decisively and without a selective approach.

He regretted some of the foreign states' support for the hypocrites' terrorist group and letting them put propaganda means at their disposal. He added: Without such support the bloody catastrophe in Mashhad would not have happened.

According to the same report, after the statement made by our country's foreign minister, the Libyan ambassador in Tehran, as the doyen of ambassadors, expressed

regret over that traumatic incident and considered that terrorist act as a violation of human rights.

Majles Official Decries 'Tragedy'

LD2306190894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1445 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Dear listeners of the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran. As you know, ceremonies were held today, on the orders of the exalted leader of the Islamic Revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, for the martyrs of the immaculate shrine of Imam Reza on the day of Ashura at Shahid Motahhari College.

Dr. Hasan Ruhani, deputy speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, delivered an address at the gathering, which we will hear together.

[Begin Ruhani recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]

Since the beginning of the glorious victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran, our honorable nation has been faced with various incidents. Our people have witnessed numerous crimes by the arrogant powers and their mercenaries. But possibly no disaster or incident has been as tragic as the incident on the evening of the day of Ashura at the immaculate shrine of the eighth imam. That is so not because a group of our pilgrims were cut to pieces and bathed in blood while worshipping and praying, since from the beginning of the revolution until now our honorable and loyal nation has offered many martyrs to our revolution. The tragedy is important from another point of view, and that is the violation of the sanctity of the shrine and the sacredness of the shrine of the innocent eighth imam—greetings and blessings be upon him—in the evening of the day of Ashura at the time when the people's sentiments and emotions toward the leader of martyrs are at their zenith. And that great tragedy occurred by the side of the shrine of the eighth Imam and the mosque, by his head.

That tragedy does not merely concern the world Shiites and the people of Iran. That tragedy concerns all Muslims and all the freedom-loving people of the world. From the point of view of any Muslim the household of honor and purity enjoys a particular and special respect.

All Islamic sects respect the family of the Prophet and the family of purity and innocence. [passage omitted] In the case of this bombing, as far as all Muslims are concerned, the sanctity of the Prophet's family, the mosque, and prayer have been violated. Innocent Muslims were killed at prayer. [passage omitted]

Why did the enemy plan this great tragedy? Why is this calamity unbearable for the brave Muslim people of Iran? Regarding the first question, let us start the discussion from this point: Who has not benefitted from Islam, Shiism, genuine Islam, the Ashura of Aba Abdullah, the shrine of the eighth imam, and the school of the family of the prophet? The faces of which powers have been slapped? If today, Iran's Islamic revolution stands as a strong dam against the moves of arrogance, and if today the power of the Islamic Republic of Iran as the center of all Islamic movements which resist arrogance and oppression...[unfinished sentence as heard] [passage omitted]

It is clear to us why the world arrogance designed and implemented the explosion at the shrine of the eighth imam, and at the time of Ashura. The bomb attack was carried out by the mercenaries who consider 20 June 1981 to be important. Their masters, who are the real plotters, the arrogant powers—these mercenary grouplets have been nurtured in their laps, and continue their shameful life today under their protection. The arrogant powers themselves know very well from where the principal blow against them has come; it comes from the Ashura front [howze-ye Ashura], the family of the Prophet's front and by the honorable and brave Iranian nation, which moves along the path of the Prophet's family. The world arrogance seeks to take its revenge on the Iranian nation. The world arrogance seeks to deal its heaviest blow against the immaculate sentiments of the Muslim people of this land. [passage omitted] They have committed crimes which do not seem rational by any logic. If a grouplet has the slightest hope of coming to power in a place it does not commit actions which result in general hatred toward it. But a grouplet can reach a point where its only task is to be the mercenary of the world arrogance and nothing else. I ask you: Has any grouplet acted in such way—to go toward and become part of the enemy while the nation was fighting a defensive war; to fight, and even worse, to spy for the enemy in order to kill one's own people? When Iraqi pilots were captured during the war they would be asked in their debriefings: Why did you have to bomb residential centers and not the city outskirts? You would have carried out your mission and would not have killed so many people. The pilots would say: Our problem is the Mojahedin-e Khalq [MKO]; we would have bombed the outskirts, but as soon as we bombed, the MKO informed Baghdad of the whereabouts of the attack. If we did not attack residential areas our lives would be in danger.

Is there a comparison to this in history? Which mercenary has ever spied in such manner against its own people and against innocent women and children in cities and villages? Do you know of a similar case? This grouplet has reached a dead end. It has to accept the truth, which it will not do. It never did. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Mashhad Radio Comments

NC2306202794 Mashhad Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Tajik 1530 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Political commentary]

[Text] Esteemed listeners: Following the savage atrocity perpetrated by the Monafeqin [hypocrites, pejorative term for Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, MKO]

against the pilgrims at the shrine of the eighth imam of the world Shiites, Imam Reza, peace be upon him, the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr. Velayati, sent a letter on 22 June to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali.

In this letter, he calls on Butrus-Ghali to increase and strengthen cooperation in the campaign against the threat of terrorism on the national, regional, and international levels on the basis of General Assembly Resolution 48/122 dated 28 August 1993.

As a result of the terroristic action against innocent civilians by the Monafeqin grouplet on Monday, 20 June, when its members planted a bomb in a holy Islamic place on a day that was sacred, 26 pilgrims including many women, children, and old people were martyred and 170 were wounded.

The reports and investigations by the experts and the documentary evidence on this heinous atrocity confirm that this act was part of a calculated program by the Monafeqin grouplet. The letter from Dr. Velayati to Butrus-Ghali stresses that it is the responsibility of all countries to fulfull their international commitments in a joint international effort to eradicate terrorism. They should not only condemn this inhuman and dastardly act, but should also explore the possibility that their official institutions, citizens, or their territories are being used by this terrorist organization for planning, financing, inciting, or supporting such crimes and should take effective and appropriate measures to prevent this.

It is worth mentioning that unfortunately the adoption of a two-faced stance by some of the ostensible supporters of the political and international antiterrorist propaganda—with regard to the activities of the terroristic groups of the Monafeqin in their own countries—is considered responsible for creating conditions favorable for this grouplet's premeditated crimes. In addition, such countries do not honor their commitments to combat international threats and merely mouth these commitments for domestic consumption

The bloody incident in Mashhad has undoubtedly proved to the whole world that, in order to attain its shameful and prurient objectives, the terroristic Monafeqin group has trampled on all ethical and international norms and does not have the slightest regard for divine or human values.

The Muslim nation of Iran—by once again standing firm against such dastardly catastrophes—has proved that the cohesiveness of the Iranian nation can never be undermined and, that, with the awareness of the Iranian people, all the cursed plots of the foreigners and their mercenary agents will be neutralized.

Velayati Urges Action Against MKO

LD2306194994 Tehran IRNA in English 1609 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Shrine Abu Dhabi (UAE), June 23, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran on Thursday [23 June] urged the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO] to condemn Monday's [20 June] bomb blast at the holy shrine of Imam Reza (as) [expansion unknown] in Mashhad and take serious measures against the terrorist Mojahedin-E Khalq group.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, whose official noted that the Mojahedin-E Khalq outfit (MKO) was behind the crime. [sentence as received] The noted [as received], handed to the OIC secretariate in Jeddah, said the terrorist MKO was responsible for the bomb blast at the Imam Reza (as) shrine on Ashura (martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein) which killed tens of pilgrims and wounded scores of others.

Calling the OIC to step up campaign against terrorism through coordinated measures by its members, Velayati said the organization should take a firm position against terrorism.

His note stressed that the OIC members should not let the sanctity of the holy places in Bosnia and Palestine to be desecrated.

Monday's bomb explosion has claimed the lives of at least 26 mourners of Imam Hussein and injured 170 others besides damaging the centuries old art embellishment at the shrine.

Rebel Radio Implicates Regime

NC2406071894 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Unattributed commentary: "The Bomb Explosion in Mashhad and Some Observations"]

[Text] As reported by foreign news agencies as well as by the regime's propaganda networks, on Monday, 20 June, a strong bomb exploded at the Emam Reza Shrine in Mashhad, killing or wounding dozens of pilgrims and inflicting damage on the shrine. After this incident, the regime's officials immediately blamed one of the antiregime organizations for this explosion.

Naturally, assassinations, murders, and the planting of bombs are considered by each and every free-thinking person and organization that respects human rights and the lives of human beings to be terrorist acts, irrespective of who perpetrates such terrorist acts and who the targets are. Therefore, the Democratic Party of Kordestan condemns this act and considers it to be extremely ugly and inappropriate.

The question that arises in this connection is: Who perpetrated this terrorist act and what were its purposes and objectives? In order to answer this question there are

some issues that can clarify the situation to a certain extent and to show why this inappropriate and anti-human act was perpetrated.

First of all, if we try to track down the engineers and perpetrators of this terrorist act and to search for the person or direction whence such acts emanate—and these are people who are very skillful in perpetrating such acts—we should, first and foremost, point an accusatory finger at the clerical regime. This is because this regime is basically a terrorist and terrorist- nurturing regime and has perpetrated dozens and even hundreds of terrorist acts at home and abroad against its opponents, so much so that in the world today and in the eyes of the world the name of the Islamic Republic of Iran and of the clerical regime is tantamount to terror and terrorism; and it is such characteristics and such acts that have made the regime a topic of discussion by everyone.

But there is a specific reason why this criminal act was perpetrated at the place it was and against the lives of defenseless people, and a partial examination of this reason will help us to solve the riddle. It is a definite and indubitable fact and not a secret to anyone that the antipopular clergymen are the enemies of all the Iranian people and that this regime has no qualms about massacring or killing anyone in this country. Moreover, the past has shown that in order to achieve its objectives, the clerical regime resorts to any incorrect act and to any antipopular plot and machination and that it does not spare any crime in order to achieve its ends.

Thus, in the chaotic situation that the regime is facing at home, and since it cannot answer the people, it is a simple matter for it to engineer such plots, to perpetrate such incidents so that it can distract the public from major problems and focus the people's attention on other issues such as this, to further pave the way for more suppression and pressure at a time when the people's voice of protests and aversion has intensified, and to thus impose a more stifling condition on the people.

Meanwhile, we see that in order to show that, contrary to what is said against it, the clerical regime—which is regarded as a terrorist regime by the public because of its continued terrorist acts and the violation of human rights and is condemned by humanitarian circles and forums and by human rights supporters at least twice a year—is itself the target of terror and terrorism and that if it sometimes adopts suppressive measures, its only objective is to fight terrorism and subversion. Thus, it further paves the way for the suppression and assassination of its opponents at home and abroad.

The time and place of the bomb explosion shows how the regime perpetrated this plan through careful planning so that it could rouse the religious sentiments of simple-minded people. Thus, the Emam Reza Shrine was chosen—and that, in the month of Muharram and during the Tas'ua and 'Ashura ceremonies. Otherwise, if it was any other person or persons apart from the regime—that is, if the said person or persons believe in terrorism and in planting bombs—there are better places and better objectives that can inflict damage and blows on the regime and its officials and not on ordinary and defenseless people.

We do not rule out the fact that after the explosion of this bomb by the regime's men and on orders of the regime's intelligence and terrorist networks, a new wave of suppression will be started by the regime and for this to be transformed into a pretext for the compilation and implementation of a new program of pressures on the people of our country in general and on members of opposition organizations in particular. For this purpose, each and every one of us should reveal such plots and vile machinations by the regime and further inform the public of the regime's plots and ploys as much as possible.

Delegation Postpones Baghdad Trip

LD2306184994 Tehran IRNA in English 1758 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Tehran, June 23, IRNA—A scheduled visit to Baghdad this Saturday [25 June] of an Iranian foreign ministry delegation has been postponed without indefinitely. [sentence as received]

The postponement, according to a foreign ministry spokesman here tonight, is due to the terrorist bomb blast at the holy shrine of Imam Reza (as) in Mashhad on Monday last that took the lives of 26 mourners on the day of Ashura (martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein) and injured about 170 others.

The terrorist Mujahidden Khalq outfit (MKO) has been held responsible for the blast.

The visit to Baghdad was within the framework of pending matters between Tehran and Baghdad.

Commentary on Velayati Letter to UN

LD2306203894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] In the wake of the atrocious crime of perpetrated by the terrorist grouplet Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization against the pilgrims of the holy mausoleum of the eighth Imam of the world Shiite, Imam Reza, peace be upon him, in a letter addressed to the UN Security General Butrus-Ghali, on Wednesday June the 22nd, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran urged him to strengthen cooperation in combating the threat of terrorism at national, regional and international levels on the basis of the UN General Assembly Resolution 122 released on 28th of August 1992. In the course of the terrorists' act perpetrated by the Monafeqin grouplet on June 20th and their bomb attack on a sacred Islamic place on a holy day against the ordinary people at least

26 pilgrims, including a large number of women, children and elderly people were martyred and 170 others were injured.

Expert reports and investigations and documents recovered in this atrocious crime confirm that the terrorist grouplet Monafeqin has been responsible for this premeditated and pre-engineered act. In this relation, in Mr. Velayati's letter to Butrus-Ghali it has been emphasised that it is a duty upon all countries that in a common international endeavour against terrorism and in a bid to fulfil their international obligation and commitments not only denounce this inhuman and cowardly act but also conduct necessary investigations into the possibility of their official organizations, citizens or their territories being used by these terrorist group for planning, financing, encouraging or supporting these crimes and to take effective steps to prevent them from carrying out their designs.

It is worth noting that unfortunately the option of dual stands and failure of a number of superficial advocated of international political propaganda against terrorism to prevent the activities of the terrorist group MKO inside their countries is regarded as an encouragement for the continuation of such organized crimes by this organization. Moreover it casts serious doubt on the adherence of such countries to their commitment in combating this international threat. Obviously the bloody tragedy of Mashhad proved to the whole world that the terrorist grouplet Monafeqin will trample upon all human and moral norms in a bid to achieve its disgraceful and evil goals and refuses to attach the slightest importance to human and divine values. The Iranian Muslim nation, once again, through resistance in the face of such tragedies, proved that their coherence and solidarity of the Iranian nation will never be damaged and that it will defuse and neutralise all the sinister designs of the aliens and their hirelings.

Velayati on Ties With Egypt, Terrorism, Israel

NC2306164594 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 15 Jun 94 p 6

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by Amin Muhammad Amin; place and date not given]

[Text] Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has stressed that his meetings with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa dealt openly with the two countries' views on a number of issues and the means of building confidence between them. He said that both Iran and Egypt are of major importance due to their unique positions on the world map. He invited the United Arab Emirates [UAE] to visit Teheran to continue the dialogue over the three islands.

Velayati denied that his country has given support to any terrorist group in Egypt or Algeria. He noted that Egypt and Iran have to cooperate in the regional and international spheres. He also denied that there are Egyptian prisoners in Iran from the Iraqi-Iranian war, stressing that all Egyptian prisoners have been handed over to Egypt.

On the obstacles impeding the restoration of relations between Egypt and Iran, Velayati said that Israel and cooperation with it are the main obstacles.

[Amin] Does this apply to all the Arab countries with which you have good relations but which are seeking peace with Israel?

[Velayati] The matter differs from one country to another according to the interest that countries show toward Israel. Our relations are based on this.

[Amin] This means that you do not now support the Palestinian cause, especially after the Palestinian-Israeli agreement?

[Velayati] Palestine does not have a united stand. We support justice and reject humiliation for the Palestinian people at the hands of Israel, which is looking to increase its hegemony over the other countries in the region. Therefore, we will not stand idle and see the whole region fall under Israeli hegemony.

[Amin] But the international conditions have changed, the power struggle in the world is over, and the current move is toward peace.

[Velayati] Do the international conditions allow one party alone to use force but not others? If this is the new world reality, then does this mean that we should all rush to hand over the region, which is the heart of the Islamic world, to the enemies, when our grandfathers fought for more than two centuries? Are we required to be beaten and to depend on Israel's mercy?

[Amin] If the parties to the conflict have accepted a peaceful solution, why then this insistence on continuing the fighting and the armed confrontation?

[Velayati] The struggle must continue. We have before us the example of South Africa, which we supported.

Certainly, any step must have an effect. There is a difference between those who welcome and bless peace and those who are compelled to make peace.

[Amin] Then, in your view, the Palestinians and Syrians are being compelled to reach an agreement and to go along with the peace process?

[Velayati] They are certainly being compelled to do so. What is happening in Gaza now is ample proof of this. 'Arafat is merely the mayor of Gaza and Jericho and his entry there means that Israel has become the master of the situation in the region. Hence, the Palestinian-Israeli agreement is not a profitable deal.

[Amin] This means Iran will not back the Palestinian self-rule authority.

[Velayati] Of course we will not back Palestinian self-rule, because while Israel has given back one part, it has taken 100 parts in a strange and unequal deal.

[Amin] What about Gulf security?

[Velayati] The security of the region cannot be established except through the desire of the Gulf countries themselves.

[Amin] Will this take place by establishing a strong joint military force or a united organization?

[Velayati] These are the many and varied stages of the road to cooperation. It starts out with economic, political, and security cooperation. But we have not yet discussed the origins and bases of the idea.

Unfortunately, we in the Gulf region have got the big arms-exporting powers used to making us various offers of arms deals. They create a whimsical danger to blackmail the region and stockpile arms there. The danger is constantly being moved around and the attrition continues.

[Amin] If Iran realizes the effects of the arms race in the region, why does it participate as a major party?

[Velayati] We are the country in the region that buys the least amount of weapons in relation to our population. Our expenditure on arms does not exceed 4 percent of the Iranian budget.

[Amin] What about the Gulf countries with a low population density?

[Velayati] If this criterion is applied, every small country would have the right to buy more weapons than it could absorb. This is a dangerous criterion to apply.

[Amin] What about your stance regarding arms deals with the United States?

[Velayati] The United States does not sell us weapons. It has frozen all deals made with it during the shah's rule. We are getting our weapons from other sources.

[Amin] Your stance on the occupation of the three UAE islands, Tunb al-Sughra, Tunb al-Kubra, and Abu Musa, constitutes an obstacle to restoring confidence with the Arabian Gulf states.

[Velayati] We are fully confident that if there is to be a solution to this problem, it must take place through peaceful dialogue. But if one party wants to corner the other party and internationalize the problem, this party will lose more than the other. We started peaceful dialogue with the UAE in Abu Dhabi a year ago and agreed to convene a second meeting for dialogue in Tehran. That meeting has not taken place.

Velayati said that through AL-AHRAM he extends an invitation to the UAE foreign minister to visit Tehran to continue their peaceful dialogue regarding the islands anytime he likes.

[Amin] There are some accusations indicating that Iran backs the terrorist organizations hiding behind the guise of religion in the region.

[Velayati] We vehemently deny these accusations. Let anyone who has proof of this come forward. We have never supported any terrorist group in Egypt or Algeria. Unfortunately, some Western forces are playing a major role in escalating terrorist and extremist currents in the region.

[Amin] What is your comment on events in Yemen?

[Velayati] We support the continuation of unity in Yemen and a peaceful solution of all the problems that pose an obstacle to the march of unity. We support solving problems through dialogue, not fighting.

Velayati Returns From Europe, Discusses Trip

NC1806064194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati described relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Germany as positive and stated that Bonn-Tehran cooperation has gone beyond bilateral relations and has adopted regional and international dimensions.

Velayati was speaking last night in an exclusive interview with our correspondent after his return from Germany and Switzerland. Velayati added: The second joint economic commission of Iran and Germany will meet in the fall, and the third joint cultural session of the two countries will convene this summer in Bonn and in Tehran.

Underlining the importance of cooperation between the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] and the European Union [EU], he pointed out that the two countries will meet in the future within their capacities as heads of the two organizations.

Referring to Germany's efforts for Iran's cooperation with the EU, Velayati said that on the basis of an agreement, he is to meet the EU leadership in the margin of the UN General Assembly in Mehr [month beginning 23 September 1994].

Continuing, the foreign minister said that the presence of the Iranian delegation at the World Forum in Switzerland was a positive political step for the Islamic Republic of Iran and added: The participants in the World Forum welcomed Iran's pivotal role in decreasing regional and international conflicts.

Commentary Views Israel's 'Peace-Seeking Mask'

LD2306201594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] The entire West Bank has been the scene of bloody demonstrations against the Zionist usurpers on Wednesday [23 June]. The demonstrations have been staged at a time when thousands of Palestinians in the Zionist regime's prisons are staging a hunger-strike to protest against the anti-human policies of that regime. Hundreds of Palestinians in Nablus, Ramallah, Jerusalem, and Bethelem cities staged demonstrations in support of the Palestinian prisoners protesting against the Zionist usurpers' policies of detaining and suppressing the Palestinians. Tens of Palestinians were subjected to the burst of machine gun fire during clashes between the Israeli troops and the Palestinian protesters and a large number of them were wounded.

At this important juncture what we are witnessing is the fact that the peace-seeking mask has fallen from the face of the Zionist usurpers. As a matter of fact, despite its earlier commitments regarding having negotiations with all the Arab delegations within the framework of the Security Council resolutions, the Zionist regime concluded the Gaza-Ariha (Jericho) accord by violating the commitment; the accord, that on the basis of international law, has no legal link with the principle of autonomy.

Despite Israel's commitment thousands of Palestinians are still being detained in the dreaded Israeli prisons. The Israeli officials have informed the PLO of their conditions, saying the Palestinian prisoners should sign undertakings in confirmation of the Gaza-Ariha accord and following their release they will not be permitted to return to their birth-places. They can only live in Gaza and Ariha. There is no doubt that the announcement of these conditions by the Zionist usurpers is a breach of international agreements, especially the fourth Geneva convention which rejects any disrespect to life and property of a nation under occupation and condemns the same.

On the other hand such a move by the Zionist regime is a blatant violation of all the commitments signed by the regime which has promised to free all the prisoners unconditionally.

Now in light of these facts the world opinion is once again confronted with the reality that it is the inefficiency of the world bodies, especially that of the UN in dealing with the regime firmly that has encouraged the Zionist regime to continue the massacre and suppression of the innocent Palestinian nation.

Kurdish Party Head Says West Supports Regime

AU2306143894 Berlin DIE TAGESZEITUNG in German 21 Jun 94 p 10

[Interview with Mostafa Hidshri, chief of the Kurdistan Democratic Party—Iran, by Thomas Dreger in Bonn on 16 June: "Kinkel Did Not Answer Me"]

[Text] [Dreger] Whom did you meet in the FRG?

[Hidshri] The Berlin senior public prosecutor in connection with the "Mykonos lawsuit," and deputies from the Social Democratic Party of Germany [SPD], the Greens, and the Christian Democratic Union [CDU].

[Dreger] That is to say, you did not have any contact with representatives of the government or the Foreign Ministry?

[Hidshri] I asked for a meeting with Foreign Minister Kinkel, but I did not get an answer. I think that this is connected with the presence of Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati. Apparently, economic interests are more important to the FRG Government than human rights and support for democratic forces.

[Dreger] Mr. Velayati was received by the chancellor, Foreign Minister Kinkel, and Economics Minister Rexrodt. If you had had the chance to also talk to these persons, what would you have told them?

[Hidshri] I would have said: Your support keeps the inhuman Iranian regime alive. It enables the Islamic Republic to continue its hostile attitude toward world peace—for example, toward the agreement between the PLO and Israel—to support fundamentalist organizations, and to oppress its own people. Democracy in Germany has fallen victim to economic interests.

[Dreger] You discussed the "Mykonos lawsuit" with a public prosecutor. What is your impression of this lawsuit?

[Hidshri] I think that the real perpetrators are standing trial. However, I am convinced that Iran is trying to influence these proceedings by economic concessions to the FRG. An example is the visit of Fallahian, Iranian minister for security and intelligence services, shortly before the beginning of the lawsuit. Mr. Schmidbauer (minister of state in the FRG Chancellor's Office and coordinator of the German intelligence services, who received Fallahian in October 1993—the editors) admitted that Fallahian had pressed for the abandonment of the lawsuit. I am afraid that the clarification of the murder will be sacrificed to economic interests.

[Dreger] Your two predecessors were murdered in Europe. Do you feel safe on this trip?

[Hidshri] I do not feel safe anywhere. It is the policy of the Islamic Republic to eliminate its opponents all over the world. The leading persons of my party are sentenced to death. I have a copy of a letter from the chief of staff of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards. In it, the order to murder two persons is given. One of them is Chao Hosseini [name as published], member of the Central Committee of my party and foreign representative of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP]—Iran in Paris. In 1991 an attempt on my life was made with a bomb in Iraqi Kurdistan. My bodyguard died. All that is happening at a time when the FRG Government calls the Iranian leadership "pragmatic."

[Dreger] How is currently the situation in Iranian Kurdistan?

[Hidshri] There are more than 50,000 Iranian soldiers and Revolutionary Guards in Kurdistan. Since the founding of the Islamic Republic, Iranian troops have destroyed 300 villages. Our political work is done underground. Our partisans act as guerrillas.

[Dreger] What are the chances of a Kurdish movement in Iran at present?

[Hidshri] It can weaken the central government and motivate the people to put up resistance and to draw the attention of Europe and the neighboring countries to itself. However, it cannot force the leadership of the Islamic Republic to initiate democratization. It will struggle against any democratic movement to its last breath.

[Dreger] How stable is the Iranian leadership? The economic situation of the country is bad, there have been riots.

[Hidshri] All indications of stability are due to economic support from the West.

[Dreger] What are your relations with the Iranian opposition?

[Hidshri] We have good relations with all, except for the Mojahedin-e-Khalq and the monarchists.

[Dreger] What is your primary objective: An independent Kurdistan or a democratic Iran?

[Hidshri] A democratic Iran where our national rights and human rights are guaranteed.

[Dreger] You have now arrived from Iraqi Kurdistan. What does this autonomous region, which has been in existence since the end of the second Gulf war, mean for the Kurds as a whole?

[Hidshri] No matter in what part of Kurdistan the Kurdish people attain their rights, this has positive effects on the other parts. The founding of such a democracy in (Iraqi) Kurdistan is contributing to the democratization of the whole region. Exactly for this reason, the neighboring countries are trying to kill this democracy. For one year, Iran has been shelling Iraqi Kurdistan with grenades and it has sent terrorists to the region.

[Dreger] For six weeks, however, not only Iranians have shot at Kurds, but also Kurds at Kurds in Iraqi Kurdistan. What are the causes of this conflict?

[Hidshri] Iran created the prerequisites for this war. Since the establishment of the Kurdish regional government in summer 1992, it has infiltrated its agents into the ranks of the two big Iraqi-Kurdish parties, the KDP and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

[Dreger] Is it not somewhat simple to say that everything comes from the outside?

[Hidshri] The two Kurdish parties are not innocent. However, the Islamic Republic is the most important factor in this war.

[Dreger] Do you see a chance to settle this conflict?

[Hidshri] Iran will not stop sabotaging the Kurdish autonomy. In order to put an end to the war, both parties have to struggle against this main cause.

[Dreger] The autonomous region is viable because aircraft of the Gulf war allies are circling above the area. Their mandate is prolonged every six months, but it does not offer more long-term prospects. What would have to happen to secure the future of the Kurds?

[Hidshri] The allies should regard the Kurdish issue as a political, not a humanitarian question. In Iraqi Kurdistan, only humanitarian support has been provided so far. Of course, this has to be welcomed, but there is a lack of political support.

[Dreger] Would that mean the recognition of an independent Kurdistan?

[Hidshri] An independent Kurdistan is not at issue. The allies should see to it that the Kurdish regional government can establish itself in a federatal Iraq. Iraqi Kurdistan is today quite up in the air. This problems should be solved with the Iraqi central government in a federatal system.

[Dreger] The conflict in north Iraq is nourishing the cliche of the Kurds being at variance. Can you envisage a joint state some day?

[Hidshri] We are not talking of an independent Kurdistan. It is not in our program and today it is impossible to translate it into reality. It is not our problem that we have parties with different political orientations. One of our problems is that we do not deal democratically with each other. However, we are not to blame for it. Our people never learned democracy. We need a democratic atmosphere in which we can deal with each other.

[Dreger] The Workers Party of Kurdistan [PKK] is the best known Kurdish organization here. What is your policy toward it and what do you think of the ban on the PKK by the FRG Government?

[Hidshri] We are in contact with the PKK, but we criticize its course of action. I think that the ban is inappropriate. The world must understand that the PKK actions are reactions to the inhuman course of action of the Turkish Government against the Kurdish people.

[Dreger] The Iranian Government has become notorious by Khomeyni's call for the murder of Salman Rushdie. What do you think of the conflict over Rushdie?

[Hidshri] I condemn the call for his murder. But I also say: The regime that sentenced Rushdie to death murdered thousands of people, without anybody doing something against it. Europe seems to have divided the people into classes. Salman Rushdie as a European must not be threatened. Iranians, however, may be killed, their life seems to be worthless.

Sri Lanka

President Appoints Two New Ministers

BK1906083494 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] President D.B. Wijetunga yesterday appointed Gamini Dissanayake as the minister of mahaweli development and Ronnie de Mel as the minister of ports and shipping. Yesterday's changes included the creation of two new ministries—the Ministry of Peoplization of Public Enterprises and the Ministry of National Reconciliation. Mr. Joseph Michael Perera, who was previously the minister of fisheries, was appointed minister of peoplization of public enterprises; Anura Bandranaike as the minister of national reconciliation in addition to his previous portfolio of higher education. Mr. Gamini Athukorale retains two out of three of his portfolios mainly forestry and irrigation while mahaweli development was transferred to Mr. Dissanayake. Alick Aluvihare, who held the portfolio of ports and shipping, declined to accept the new ministry and was dropped from the cabinet.

Sacked Minister Reinstated

BK2006141094 Hong Kong AFP in English 0954 GMT 20 Jun 94

[Text] Colombo, June 20 (AFP)—Sri Lanka President Dingiri Banda Wijetunga on Monday [20 June] reinstated a senior minister sacked after his refusal to accept a new portfolio in a mini reshuffle, official said.

Ruling party stalwart Alick Aluvihare was sworn in as minister of Public Administration, the job he refused Friday after his Shipping and Ports ministry was given to a newcomer.

Officials said Wijetunga's United National Party (UNP) had been concerned over opposition moves to woo Aluvihare ahead of presidential elections due later this year.

Government Spokesman on Conditions for Talks

BK1706154694 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] A senior spokesman for the Sri Lankan Government told LANKAPUVATH yesterday that the fresh peace talks offer made by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists through the BBC fell far short of the requirements for the government to resume negotiations between the government and the terrorist organization [words indistinct]. He described the new peace talks offer made by the LTTE ideologist, Anton Balasingham, to the BBC in Jaffna as an old song with a new tune. The only concession the Tigers had made was the cease-fire which is tantamount to the laying down of arms, which is one of the preconditions laid down by the government. If the LTTE was genuinely interested in settling the problem they should contact the Sri Lankan Government direct and not use intermediaries as ploys. They should inform the government of the framework of their proposals. The senior government spokesman said that the Sri Lanka Government has a precondition also stated that the LTTE leader Prabhakaran should deal direct with the government and not through his spokesman and intermediaries. In addition, the government requires that all political parties should take part in the peace talks. Once these preconditions were met, the Sri Lankan Government was willing to (?listen) to them resuming negotiations to end the crisis and terrorism.

Meanwhile, a military spokesman told LANKAPUVATH that preparations were being finalized for an all out onslaught which would end LTTE terrorism and restore peace in the northeastern region.